

THE AMERICAN **LEGION**

FOR GOD & COUNTRY

December 1997

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JORDAN ON
CAPITOL HILL
Page 16

A Season Of Hope

PLUS

Interview:
Netscape's Marc
Andreessen

Toys of Joy



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THE AMERICAN LEGION

Vol. 143, No. 6

The Magazine for a Strong America

December 1997

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THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.8 million members. These wartime veterans, working through nearly 15,000 community-level Posts, dedicate themselves to God and country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youths.



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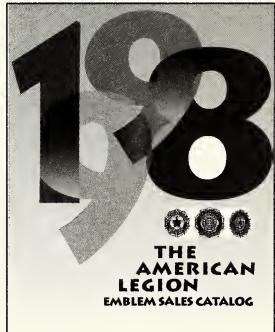
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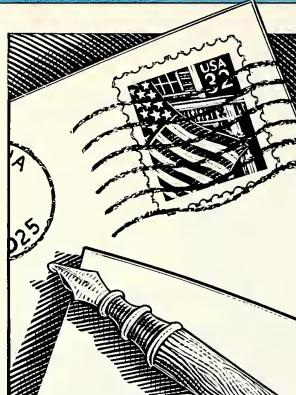
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September Bouquets...

WANTED to commend you for an outstanding publication. I've been a member over 35 years, and this issue is, without a doubt, the best ever. Perhaps I just needed a spirit boost, but I must say the magazine is really uplifting. Thanks for making my day.

Charles Kershaw

Pompton Plains, New Jersey

CONGRATULATIONS on your special issue, "What's Right With America." You picked up on the pluses that this great country of ours affords, unlike the national news media that seem to want to focus only on the minuses. How totally refreshing. Too bad the national media can't or doesn't want to do the same.

John H. Clark
Hoona, Alaska

I WISH to congratulate you on the new format of your magazine. I was about to give up on the old prejudiced magazine. I was beginning to think that all the Legion was interested in was old history of old wars or selling calendars, life and auto insurance, rings and other stuff. This new format is varied and finally written and displayed in a modern way. I am beginning to have a new faith. Welcome to the modern day.

Dick Bertram
Hermitage, Missouri

WHAT a wonderful thing it is to read about the positive side of American life! I agreed with

every letter and article in the September issue, and I congratulate you and all your staff on a wonderful production. Too often the public only hears about the bad side of life. I'd wager you could easily get several hundred more letters like those you published. We must never sell the people of this great country short. They will always be there in time of need. As long as there are more good people than bad, we'll be all right.

George L. Cole
Bel Air, Maryland

THANK YOU for September's good news. I cannot remember when I enjoyed reading a magazine so much. It seems like the *Tampa Tribune* reports nothing but robberies, murders, rape and child abuse. At 73 years old, I was getting discouraged about the way our country was going. You have given me hope it will survive.

Jean E. Boucheron
Zephyrhills, Florida

JUST wanted to let you know that I really enjoyed the September issue. With all of the negatives we get in the media, it was refreshing to see a whole publication dedicated to positives. What's right with America indeed! This land of the free is still by far the best on the planet.

Isiah E. Hargrove
Americus, Georgia

WE WANT YOUR OPINIONS

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE welcomes letters concerning articles that appear in the publication. Be sure to include your hometown and a daytime phone number for verification. All letters are subject to editing. Send your opinions to:

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OH MY! What a wonderful approach. From Boston Harbor to all across the membership nation—a positive viewpoint! When our nation is hurting, it doesn't help one bit to have someone analyze our sores, aches and failures. But the effort to help us find some good is heartening. And in this issue, a little reference to earlier times is welcomed among the aging.

Leonard W. Lehman
Goshen, Indiana

WE ARE pleased to see the Shriners Hospitals listed in the "You Can Make a Difference" sidebar to Elizabeth Hanford Dole's great article, "Quiet Heroes," in the September issue.

In July 1996, the Shriners voted to delete the word "Crippled" from the name of our 22-hospital system. We are now the Shriners Hospitals for Children, a name more reflective of our overall mission.

Richard W. Burgess
Shriners Hospitals for Children

THE SEPTEMBER issue about the positive aspects of our great country was the best issue of any magazine I have seen lately. With a more positive approach, I know we can and will do more good works within our great nation.

Don Lindley
Manhattan, Kansas

...And Brickbats

I WISH to register my dissatisfaction with the September issue of the magazine. It contains the same left-liberal, politically correct, politico-babble that is spewed forth daily from the Washington Beltway. I wouldn't trade one in-depth article by Cliff Kincaid for a boatload of the nonsense featured in this "special issue."

Charles Roberson
Weatherford, Texas

IN THE September issue you stated that it was difficult selecting which letters to publish. If this were true, then why did you publish the letter, "The Stories We Tell," by Jennifer Hayes? She describes how her "tired and emotional eyes glistened" when she saw "Muhammad Ali struggle to



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light the Olympic torch." To even mention Muhammad Ali (Cassius Clay) in your publication is insulting.

Muhammad Ali was making good money as a professional boxer and lacked the intestinal fortitude to put his life on the line in Vietnam, so he dodged the draft and hid under the conscientious objector blanket to avoid serving his country. You should be ashamed of yourselves for including that letter in your special issue.

Charles Bushey

Dripping Springs, Texas

Lest We Forget

A S A radiated veteran from the occupation of Nagasaki in 1945, I would ask that you consider an article on occasion highlighting the efforts of The American Legion to seek simple justice for the radiated veterans before we are all just memories. We seem to have been relegated to the back burner in favor of more recent disabling issues such as Agent Orange and Gulf War Syndrome.

Keith Schwenk
Ovett, Mississippi

Editor's note: "St. George Is Expendable" (October 1995), an award-winning story by former Veterans' Affairs Editor Ken Scharnberg, dealt with radiated veterans. The magazine has published several articles and updates on this issue.

No Connection

TAKE issue with the mis-representation of veterans' concerns about exposure to depleted uranium (DU) during the Persian Gulf War [Washington Watch, October].

The effort to call attention to the exposure of Gulf War veterans during Desert Storm has been led by the Depleted Uranium Citizens' Network of the Military Toxics Project, the National Gulf War Resource Center and The American Legion in Res. 180 by the 1996 National Convention, which called for congressional hearings on the "benefits of Depleted Uranium as ammunition versus the cost of exposing American troops to this deadly substance."

Many have tried recently to portray veterans' concerns about DU as being

orchestrated by Iraqi propaganda and a few individuals associated with Ramsey Clark. Neither the DU Citizens' Network, the National Gulf War Resource Center, nor, I suspect, The American Legion, have ties to Clark, though all have raised concerns about the use of uranium rounds.

Dan Fahay
San Francisco, California

Cranked About Cronkite

DID YOU bother to read Mr. Cronkite's book, *A Reporter's Life*, before conducting the interview? I have read his book, and I assure you it was quite disturbing to learn our nation had placed its sacred trust in a man who now proudly admits that he "tried to keep our reports impartial but personally I tilted largely toward the dissidents." Walter's remarkable admission that CBS's coverage of the Vietnam War may have been "spun" to favor the views of the anti-war dissidents confirms what many senior military commanders have long suspected. At the very least, Cronkite should have resigned his position as *CBS Evening News* anchorman the very moment he realized his sympathies were causing him to tilt largely toward the anti-war movement.

Ed Moffit
New York, New York

Return, Yes

JUST finished reading the comments made by Representatives Roscoe Bartlett and Jane Harman, "Should the Military Return to Gender-Segregated Basic Training?"

Having spent 20-plus years in the military, I must agree with Mr. Bartlett on this matter. It has been my thought since day one that the mix of gender in most military organizations, especially combat units, is totally without common sense. I might generally agree that there are a few females capable of coping with the rigors expected in a combat force, but it is unwise to think that all females could. I am no chauvinist by any stretch of the imagination, but I can assure you that I would not feel comfortable having a female buddy in a wartime conflict.

Norman Kleppen
Las Vegas, Nevada

Wrong Track

YOUR October issue posed the question, "Should Congress Renew the President's 'Fast Track' Authority?" Under "fast track," this president has proven he cares nothing for our sovereignty or our Constitution. The "Chemical Treaty" voids the 4th amendment for companies like Dupont and 3M, which are now subject to searches that require a warrant under U.S. law.

For Sen. Chuck Hagel, the Nebraska Republican, to argue in favor is astonishing. I'm not surprised when left-wing extremists attempt to take our freedoms, but for a Republican to do so shows how close we must look at individuals instead of political party labels before citizens go to election booths to vote.

Chuck Bowman
Baldwin Park, California

End-Game Medicine

I THINK a large number of people who have had active lives and are then suddenly dependent on life-support systems might want to call Dr. Kevorkian or someone who feels as Dr. Quill does ["Merciful Medicine," October].

I am not completely bed-ridden, but I know what a burden I am to my wife. Sometimes I wish not to wake up the next day so that she could have a better life—she worries about leaving me alone long enough to go downstairs and check the mail.

I am fortunate, though, to live near a VA Medical Center (Bay Pines) where I get the very best medical care available.

Arthur L. Adams
North Redington Beach, Florida

Extraordinary Guy

JUST read the October article on "An Extraordinary Little Guy" taken from the James Tobin book. It's a wonderful story. I was stationed in Japan years ago and saw the movie based on his life, *GI Joe*, in a base theater named in his honor. Burgess Meredith played the role of Ernie Pyle.

Robert E. Carbaugh
Clarion, Pennsylvania □

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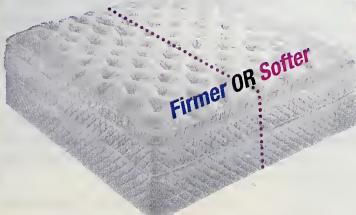
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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



Nat'l. Cmdr.
Anthony G. Jordan

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courage
light our
lives and
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Seasonal Lessons

THE holiday season is upon us, and my thoughts turn to the great lessons that the season brings.

I'm thinking, of course, about the reminders of the brotherhood of humanity, the unchanging importance of spiritual truths, the priceless value that little acts of kindness and caring can hold.

Some of the finest examples of these fundamental values exist among America's veterans and their families, especially the members of The American Legion family.

Over the years, I've gotten to know the Legion and a lot of Legionnaires well. Among us, the heritage and habits of selfless service, of giving to our communities, our nation, our comrades, are common. Legionnaires are more likely than most to focus on the key to the holidays, the spirit of giving, and, beyond that, the spiritual gifts available to people of faith.

Gifts are items the giver hopes will be of value to the receiver, and another key to this time of year is that value is seldom what is entered in the checkbook or itemized on the charge card statement. This simple truth, sometimes so hard to keep in mind, hit me hard recently.

One of the great honors of my life was the recent opportunity to represent the men and women of The American Legion at the 1997 National Patriots Award Dinner in Little Rock, Arkansas, sponsored by the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. It was a humbling, awe-inspiring and renewing experience to be in the same room with so many American heroes who risked everything to help their buddies on the battlefield, and, ultimately, their nation. Patriotism and bravery combined in them and produced something else, a spiritual quality. The gold star they wear around their necks is the great symbol of courage that has no equal in America.

In a crucial nanosecond, each decided that all he had, or might ever have, was less important than aiding his comrades, less important than improving the chances that his family and community enjoy all that they might strive for in peace and freedom, two large and often rare gifts.

Another great and continuing gift is their

example among us.

Most of these heroes live quietly; their neighbors who do not know the story sense a person of inner strength and perspective, one who knows that care and calm will handle everyday stresses. Their neighbors who do know also have the comfort that in moments of great need, great heroes step forward.

Medal of Honor recipients step into public roles when they feel honor, duty and common sense command it.

Patrick Brady, a retired Army major general, has been much among us for several years, leading the fight for a constitutional amendment to restore to the American people the legal right to protect Old Glory. Those who meet Gen. Brady will understand my comments about the inner strengths and confidence of these men.

One Hollywood story tells of a meeting the studio arranged between John Wayne and several Marine heroes of Iwo Jima as part of his preparation for the Sgt. Stryker role.

The actor shortly excused himself, profoundly stirred by what the Marines had done in clawing their way to victory on that hardscrabble Pacific island. Sometime later, Wayne was discovered crying in a closet. After my encounter with the Medal of Honor recipients, I have a good idea of what it took to move the Duke to tears and where the value of the greatest gifts can be found.

That's on the spiritual side where love, courage and faith intersect. Physically, many awarded the Medal of Honor have expended more energy in pick-up basketball games.

Mentally, concern over crossword puzzles is probably a bigger deal. But by putting some things above their lives, they have proved their souls, set examples for ours and enlarged our nation's.

Their great gifts, and those of all the men and women who served our country in time of need, ensure that we, during the holiday season, can share bright, pretty, thoughtful gifts with family and friends in comfort, ease and serenity.

From my family to all members of the Legion family's Posts, Units and Squadrons: May the joys of the season shine through your holidays. □

IT'S A WATCH...

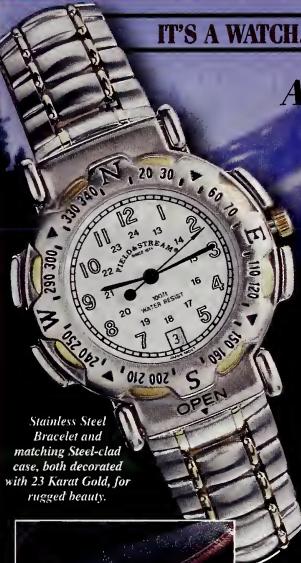


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Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman (D-Connecticut)



YES

I see the continued, measured expansion of NATO as vital to the national security interests of the United States and the fulfillment of a moral commitment we made to the people of Europe subjugated by communists during the Cold War.

America fought and won two world wars in Europe during this century. After World War II, we formed NATO as an alliance of free nations dedicated to the security of the United States and Western Europe. Our larger hope was that the NATO shield would allow democracy to win the ideological war, which it did.

Some now argue that NATO's mission is accomplished and that the alliance is no longer relevant. They are wrong. NATO's fundamental purpose is as critical today as it was in 1949: to combine our collective strength to prevent war or the spread of war. But the NATO of the early 21st century must adapt to the political geography of the post-Cold War world. This means we must expand the alliance to include those parts of Europe where future conflict could threaten the peace and stability we enjoy. Freedom in some quarters of Europe remains fragile.

When the Senate debated whether to ratify the president's decision to send 20,000 American soldiers to Bosnia, I proposed that we had to view our vote to send Americans into harm's way both as an expression of our continuing interest in European peace as well as an integral part of our mutual responsibility with the NATO nations. America should not become Europe's answer to calling 911. But there will come a day when the United States would put out the call for mutual action, and we would need help from our allies in Europe. That is part of the investment we would be making with expansion.

NATO has provided a strong political framework where problems between its members were resolved peacefully. Welcoming and integrating the new democracies into this dialogue means extending the zone of peace. That is, after all, what we've wanted for decades. Today, those nations are practicing what we preached.

In short, NATO should be expanded over time as individual nations develop their democracies, economies and ability to integrate their military capabilities with ours. It is the right thing to do for America's national security in the 21st century. □

Rep. James A. Traficant Jr. (D-Ohio)



NO

With the end of the Cold War, the United States finds itself alone as the preeminent military, economic and political power in the world.

In Europe, the threat of invasion from the Warsaw Pact no longer exists. The countries that comprised the former Soviet Union are moving toward capitalism and democracy. Russia now participates in NATO meetings.

All of these dramatic changes should be welcomed by the United States. We should encourage and support the development of close ties between the democracies of Western Europe and the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe and Russia. A central question is whether or not these nations should all gradually become part of NATO.

In my view, that should be the ultimate goal of both the United States and our NATO allies. However, any future expansion of NATO should be paid for largely by our European allies and the new member states. The United States must and should continue to play a leading role in NATO. Given our vast nuclear arsenal and the tens of thousands of troops we already have stationed in Europe, the United States already is committed to the future security of Europe.

But the time has come for the partnership between the United States and Europe to evolve into a true, equal partnership.

Nowhere is this more true than in the Balkans. The reality is that without the strong leadership of the United States, there would not have been a peaceful settlement to the conflict. I, along with many members of Congress, remain opposed to the deployment of United States ground troops to Bosnia. It is time for countries like France to play more of a lead role in security crises like Bosnia. I am in favor of the United States providing a significant supportive role in peacekeeping missions (logistical, intelligence and air support) but not a lead role. Certainly not ground troops.

The Cold War is over. While it would be a tragic mistake for the United States to retreat into isolationism, it would be equally tragic if we continued to pay an unfair share of the burden of guaranteeing the security of Europe. □

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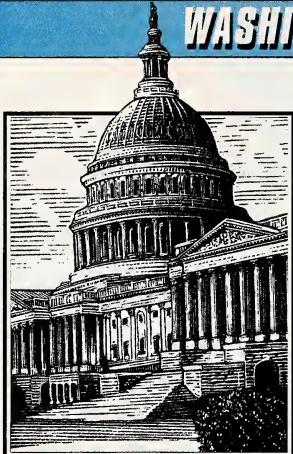
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By Cliff Kincaid

Shot Put-Down

A N experimental AIDS vaccine was used on Gulf War military personnel, implies a dramatic report in *Insight* magazine. The article claims that blood tests of veterans sick with Gulf War Syndrome found evidence of squalene, a synthetic substance used in government research on AIDS and herpes.

Despite government denials, *Insight* Managing Editor Paul M. Rodriguez says the unanswered questions have "become a story unto itself."

Immunization records for Gulf War veterans have been reported lost. But Barbara Loe Fisher of the National Vaccine Information Center doesn't believe it, suspecting that the records are being withheld for long-term evaluation. "Unfortunately," she says, "they seem to think those who go into the service are their own personal guinea pigs."

Who are they? The public health infrastructure. "They have no oversight mechanism. No one is policing them," Fisher claims. At a recent Washington conference sponsored by her organization, Jim Tuite, former top congressional aide, discussed the role of vaccines in Gulf War illnesses. Tuite, now with the Chronic Illness Research Foundation, told THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE that *Insight's* revelations "raise questions that have to be dealt with scientifically, rather than in the popular press."

Sensitivity Fi, Mac

BACK in June, Rep. Steve Buyer of Indiana called time out on a legislative proposal by Rep. Roscoe Bartlett of Maryland to end mixed-gender basic training. Buyer, chairman of the House Military Personnel Subcommittee, convinced his colleagues to support a study of the matter.

Since then, Buyer, a Gulf War veteran, visited Parris Island, where the sexes are separated, and commented that, "The problems with the Army in regard to drill sergeants abusing their position are almost nonexistent" there. The female Marine recruits told Buyer, "We wanted segregated training."

Still, Buyer is not convinced that segregation is the way to go for all the services. "He wants to wait for the results of a study," says an aide. "He's not prepared to endorse a one-size-fits-all approach for the services."

Open Spies Treaty

THE Russians are coming, came, and went. In fact, that aircraft with the red star on the tail which flew over Ohio and Florida in August was a Russian An-30. It took photographs of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and Cape Canaveral.

But don't be concerned, says David Rigby, speaking for the On-Site Inspection Agency of DoD. No secrets were compromised and no technology was given away.

It's all being done in accordance with the "Open Skies Treaty," and U.S. military personnel even assisted the Russians. The trouble is that the Russians haven't ratified the treaty yet. So this was a "practice mission," Rigby says.

Americans have since traveled to Russia for a similar mission. However, most of the suspicious activity in the former Soviet Union is occurring below rather than above ground, such as the August "earthquake" near a Russian nuclear test site. The Russians deny it was a secret nuclear test.

The Russians are also denying that a huge project under the Ural Mountains is a bunker for Kremlin officials to hunker down in a nuclear war. They claim it's just a mining operation.

Comrade Capitalist

THE latest United Nations proposal is an International Criminal Court to go after international outlaws. In a letter to Sen. Jesse Helms, North Carolina Republican and chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the New Cuba Coalition suggests that Fidel Castro, a favorite at U.N. conferences, be targeted. The dictator has sponsored subversion, terrorism and kidnapping, the group says, and he deserves prosecution for his crimes.

The group says legal action against Castro might also result in the recovering of Cuban assets. Castro made a recent issue of *Forbes* magazine as a member of the billionaire's club with a fortune estimated at \$1.4 billion.

Follow the Money

THE Treasury Department has proposed new regulations to track money transactions in amounts as low as \$500. "Hundreds of thousands, if not millions of American businesses and individuals, will be affected," complains Richard Rahn, former vice president and chief economist at the Chamber of Commerce. Those most affected will be businesses providing check cashing, money orders, "smart cards" or traveler's checks. Rahn raises the specter of the information collected being leaked or stolen.

The government's objective is to fight drug money laundering, and one temporary set of regulations on transactions destined for Colombia resulted in five arrests. But Rahn says it's not worth the price. "A few stupid or careless criminals will be caught, but the most important ones will not," he says.

Money for Nothin'

FORGET about the promise of a balanced budget by 2002. Rep. Mark W. Neumann of Wisconsin says federal receipts are increasing so rapidly, more than 7 percent annually, that we should have a balanced budget by next year. Neumann is now talking about what to do with the extra money. He wants to pay down the debt and cut taxes. But he thinks the administration will want another version of national health care. □

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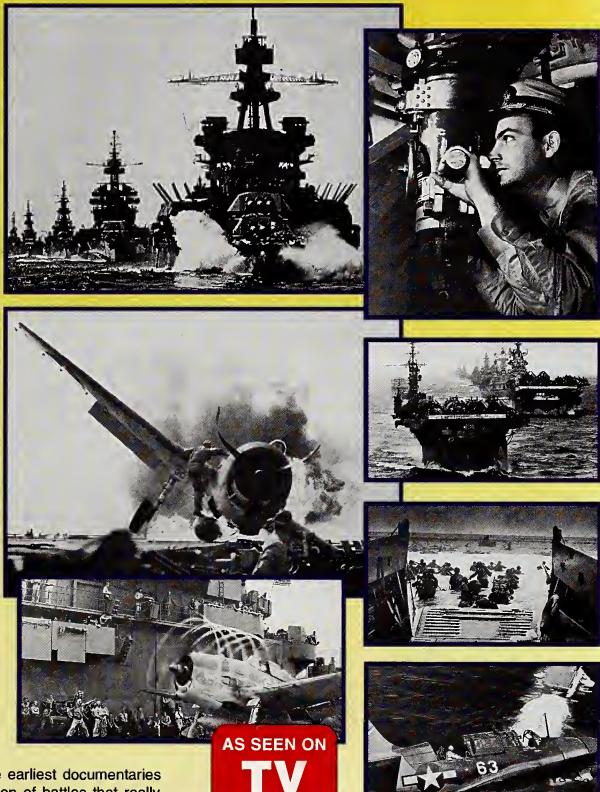
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The Allied Turning Point

The turning point came in a naval battle off Newfoundland in May of 1943. The U.S. Navy and its allies, by using their new counter methods, finally were able to protect their convoys. In fact, during the month of May we sank 43 German U-boats, greatly eliminating the Wolf Pack's threat. The U.S. Navy now had free rein over the ocean, a necessity in order for the convoys to carry supplies that were desperately needed for the war effort. This exciting World War II series shows you actual war footage, giving you a real sense of what was at stake. It takes you through the full story of W.W. II by sea. Brings you in touch with the major dramatic events from the beginning of W.W. II to the final U.S. and Allied Victories At Sea. Music was written by Richard Rodgers.



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ON DUTY



SMART SHIPS, SAILORS

SAILORS will have to learn a lot more about computers and advanced technology in the next few years, but the knowledge will free them from some of the routine and repetitive tasks of shipboard life. The Navy is developing "smart ships" that will use computers and other advanced technology to do some of the routine jobs now performed by sailors.

A trial of the concept on a new Aegis cruiser has posted promising results. Computers help run the bridge, monitor engineering systems, even perform damage control. And sailors will be freed to concentrate on the most important job—fighting.

Automation is expected to eliminate 15 percent of the maintenance work performed by sailors. Cuts in other areas might be even bigger. The sailors needed to man the pilot house and topside can be cut from 12 to five, and the need for radiomen can be trimmed by a fourth in a ship the size of a cruiser.

Reducing the crew size on such a ship could save almost \$2 million a year.

The smart ship is one Navy answer to the ongoing challenge of dwindling defense budgets and shrinking manpower pools. Smart-ship components are expected to be ready for deployment in 2002.

ENLISTING DOCTORS

FOR years the military has used generous scholarships to attract medical students and ensure a reliable supply of uniformed doctors, dentists, nurses and other medical specialists.

But the scholarship program takes several years to produce trained personnel, so it hasn't helped much in the annual struggle to solve immediate shortages.

Now the services think they have a solution. Instead of paying to send students through medical school, they want to use scholarship money to pay off education debts of doctors and nurses who are newly graduated.

The plan offers several advantages. Medical school graduates with thousands of dollars of loans to pay are more likely to give serious consideration to military service in exchange for retirement of some or all of their debts.

And the plan lets the military direct money to graduates trained in the specialties each service needs to fill now.

Such loan-payoff programs have been useful recruiting tools for civilian medical companies. The services currently offer medical scholarships worth more than \$20,000 a year.

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TOUGHER FITNESS TESTS

THE Army is planning to order tougher physical-fitness standards for women soldiers.

After surveying 30,000 soldiers in 1997, Army officials discovered that even women who smoke or are overweight have little difficulty passing the semiannual physical-fitness test used since 1984.

Standards allow 25-year-old women two minutes to do 16 pushups, two minutes for 45 situps and 19 minutes and 36 seconds to run two miles. Men the same age must be able to do 40 pushups and 47 situps in those times and run two miles in 16 minutes and 36 seconds.

Besides not challenging female soldiers, the easier test for women has been a major source of resentment among male soldiers, the survey indicated.

To pass the tougher tests being planned, women will have to do more pushups, probably the same number of situps, and speed up their two-mile run.

A DENTAL PLAN

FINALLY, six years after military leaders were stunned when dental problems kept thousands of reservists out of the Persian Gulf War, there is a dental-care plan for reserve troops.

For payments of \$4.36 a month, reservists will receive up to \$1,000 worth of dental care each year—\$947.68 worth of free care.

On Oct. 1, 780,000 reserve troops became eligible for the dental plan, part of the Tricare medical program. However, officials predict only about 209,000 will sign up the first year. The Pentagon has budgeted \$16.4 million for it in 1998.

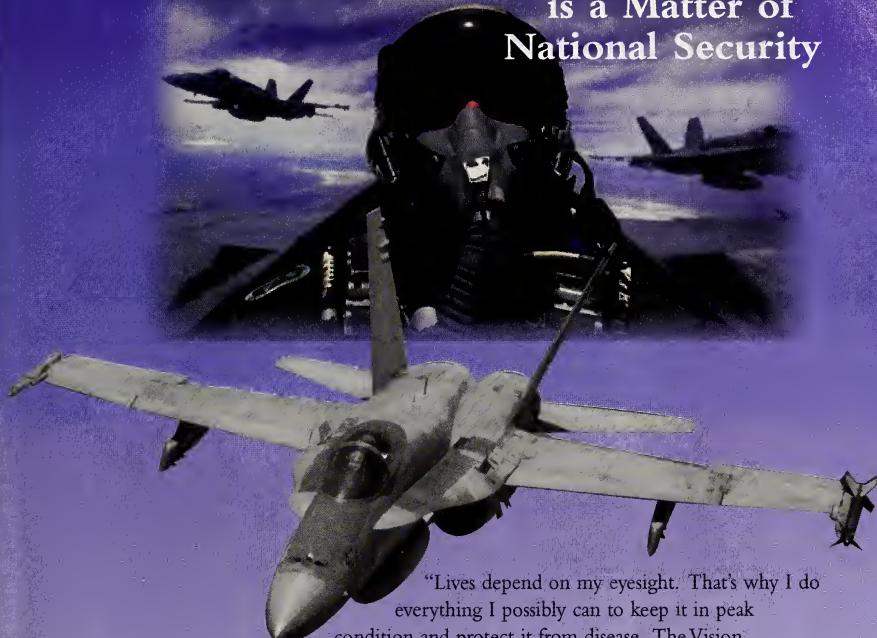
The monthly premium covers routine dental care including tooth cleanings, X-rays and emergency care for mouth injuries and pain. Co-payments are necessary for other services such as fillings, temporary crowns and tooth extractions.

Care is provided by private dentists under contract to the military.

IN THE NEWS

A law denying federal grants and contracts to colleges that ban military recruiters has prompted some schools to drop their bans.... Defense Secretary William Cohen is urging greater use of reserve forces to accomplish more missions with a smaller military.... Bremerton Naval Hospital in Washington state now lets patients refill prescriptions by Internet, a service Navy officials predict will be duplicated service-wide.... Meanwhile, a new mail-order pharmacy service makes drugs available to most military medical service recipients.... The United States has opened five schools for military dependents on Guam.

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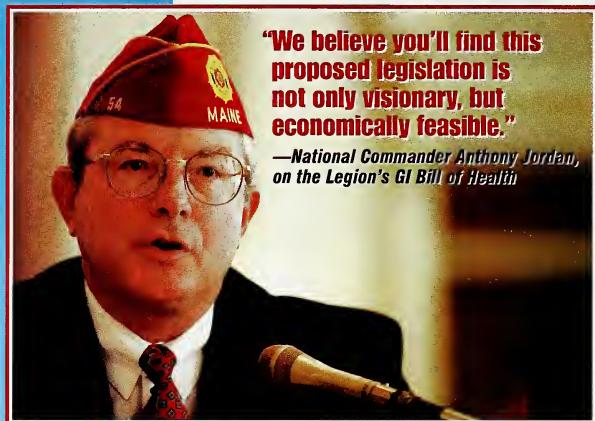
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COMMANDER'S TESTIMONY

BLUEPRINT FOR CHANGE



care for veterans. An earlier version of the Legion-written GI Bill of Health, introduced in the 104th Congress, failed to advance beyond committee.

Jordan commended Congress for recent moves to improve access to VA treatment and services [Public Law 104-262, the Veterans' Health Care Eligibility Reform Act], calling it an important first step. But if VA is to survive into the 21st century and thrive, it must find new revenue and adopt managed-care principles. Jordan said the new law does not generate the additional funds needed to expand services. Without increased revenue, non-priority veterans will continue to be forced out of the system, and affordable health care will be out of reach for thousands of veterans.

"The veterans' health-care system is imploding," Jordan said. "Veterans' hospitals are not being utilized to their maximum capacity. Many [veterans] still spend long hours waiting to see doctors. You can read the statistics, but the statistics do not tell the entire story. Behind every number there is a veteran, and behind every veteran there is a family. These are real people who answered our nation's call when we needed them most. Can we now turn our backs on them when they are asking for what they thought they were promised when they took the soldier's oath?"

The nation can preserve and strengthen the VA as a national asset by adopting legislation which incorporates the principles set down in the GI Bill of Health, said Jordan. He said the proposal allows VA to enter into partnerships with the private sector, which has embraced the managed-care principles specified in the GI Bill of Health. Jordan told lawmakers the major components of the proposal will:

- Preserve the Veterans' Health Administration but reorganize it to improve access to care and enhance quality and efficiency.
- Preserve the system under which all veterans with service-connected illnesses and disabilities are guaranteed access to the services they need, at no charge to the veteran.
- Assure access to VA care for all veterans with service-connected disability ratings of 50 percent or greater. The plan assures access to care for all special-category veterans, indigent veterans and those with service-connected

Please turn page

The GI Bill of Health and improved medical funding are the medicines to meet vets' needs in the 21st century.

OUALITY, affordable health care should be available to every veteran and every veteran's family that needs the help. The American Legion, unlike some critics of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, has a creative solution to make that idea work. It's called the GI Bill of Health, and National Commander Anthony Jordan became its chief advocate at a joint hearing Sept. 23 before the House and Senate committees on veterans' affairs.

"We believe you will find this proposed legislation is not only visionary, but economically feasible," Jordan told committee members at the packed joint session on Capitol Hill. "Yes, it calls for major change, but it also prescribes a logical, businesslike approach to improve, strengthen and preserve a proven national resource—the VA health-care system." The GI Bill of Health opens up VA care to all veterans and their dependents, taps new funding sources and expands services through sharing agreements with private health-care providers.

Jordan outlined the proposal and asked lawmakers to conduct hearings on its merits. He urged the House and Senate panels to bring in all shareholders in the veterans' health-care network to weigh the proposal in light of VA's ongoing reforms and other efforts to expand

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COMMANDER'S TESTIMONY

'Together we can rebuild the VA hospital system and guarantee first-rate care for veterans and their families.'

—Jordan, testifying before Congress.

ratings under 50 percent, and for most non-service-connected conditions, at no charge.

- Open new funding streams by allowing VA to retain all reimbursements from third-party payers such as Medicare, Tricare, CHAMPUS and employer health-benefit plans.

- Seek appropriations driven by the number of patients treated, not budget-driven deficit-reduction targets.

- Allow VA to contract with the private sector for services. Services that are less costly when performed by private-sector health providers save VA medical centers money for treatment elsewhere. This also would allow access to care for veterans who don't happen to live near a medical center or clinic.

- Retain all "specialized" services and expand access to care for veterans with other than service-connected conditions.

Asa Hutchinson, who represents the 3rd District of Arkansas, told Jordan he "appreciates the [Legion's] innovative approach" in trying to help solve health-care availability problems.

"As a physician," commented John Cooksey, "I know a lot of times we grope for answers" as to what causes illness. But in the meantime, says the Louisiana congressman and Air Force veteran, he thinks Gulf War "veterans are entitled to absolute" symptomatic treatment.

Top VA officials, recognizing the need for change, have embarked on their own reform plans, noted Jordan. Many of the provisions stack up with the managed-care principles expounded in the GI Bill of Health. Jordan encouraged lawmakers to consider the measure

in the context of the times and not be swayed by the sort of nay-sayers who tried to shout down the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944—the original GI Bill of Rights. That legislation educated generations of American veterans whose resulting earning power dwarfed the nation's initial investment. The GI Bill made home ownership more than a dream for 13 million Americans, redefined and expanded the middle class and is acknowledged to be one of the most important pieces of social legislation in U.S. history.

Gazing across the table at committee members, Jordan vowed to each: "Ladies and gentlemen, together we can do it again. Together, we can rebuild and reconstruct the VA hospital system and guarantee first-rate care for veterans and their families...It won't be easy. The American Legion knows that. But we also know it's possible—and it's the right thing to do."

Bob Filner, a minority member on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, told Jordan, "I wish I could say DoD was as on-the-job as you [the Legion] are." The Californian, whose district includes San Diego, said he appreciated Jordan's focus on Persian Gulf Illnesses and that the reports of experimental vaccines being used on troops sent to the Gulf needed to be looked at in an honest, objective fashion.

Jordan didn't allow his time before the committee to lapse before putting in a word or two about other issues of concern to Legionnaires.

Nearly seven years after victory in the Persian Gulf, thousands of the nation's younger veterans sent to war in top shape are sick, and many have died. Jordan thanked members on both sides of the aisle for making

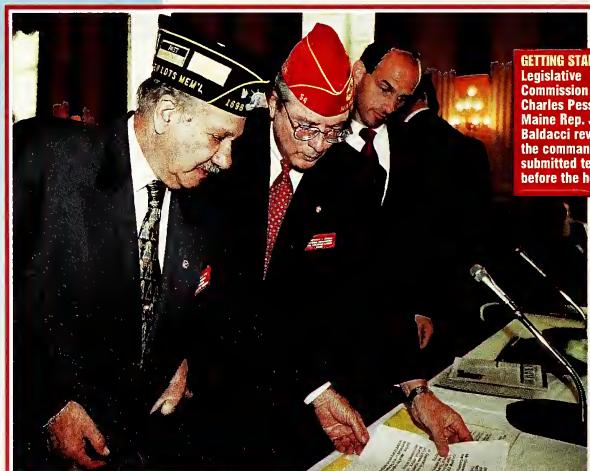
Gulf War Illness a priority in the 105th Congress, singling out House Veterans Affairs' Chairman Bob Stump of Arizona for convening high-profile hearings to probe the causes of and treatment for the undiagnosed illnesses affecting Gulf veterans. He mentioned the Legion's efforts to prevent Gulf veterans from suffering the years of neglect Vietnam veterans faced when their comrades began to sicken and die from conditions later linked to Agent Orange exposure.

"Our No. 1 priority is to make sick Gulf War veterans well again," said Jordan. "Investigating the causes—and assessing the blame for alleged cover-ups—are one part of the nation's total effort. Assisting and effectively treating sick veterans now should be our first priority." Jordan said despite more than 70

Please turn to page 42

GETTING STARTED
Legislative
Commission Chairman
Charles Pessi and
Maine Rep. John
Baldacci review with
the commander his
submitted testimony
before the hearing.

PHOTO BY JACOB



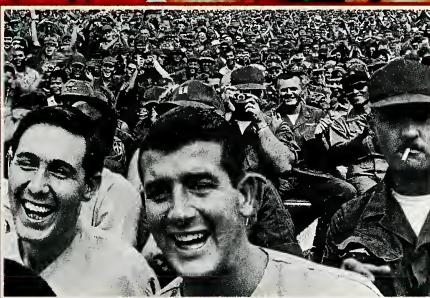
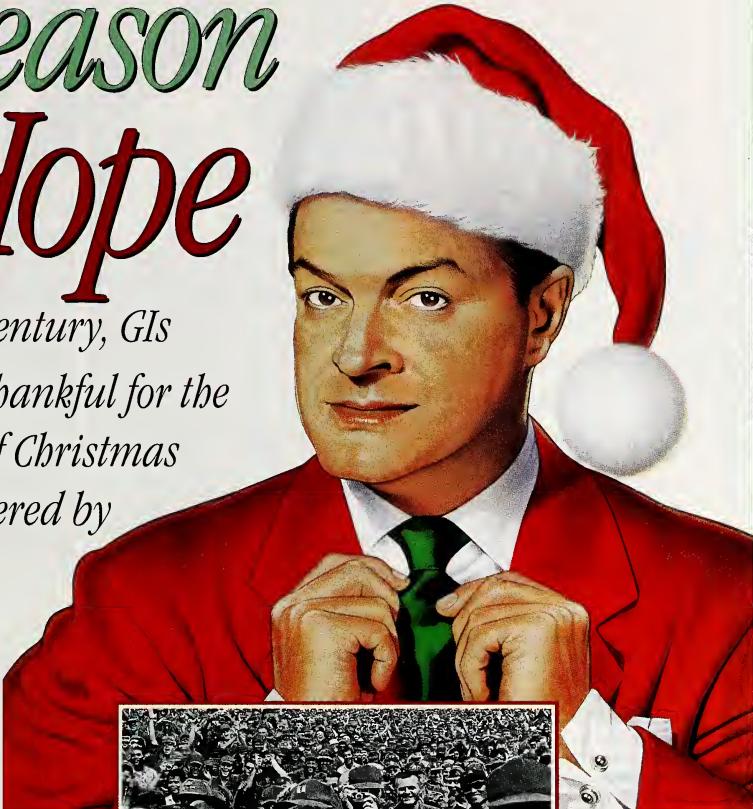
A Season of Hope

For half a century, GIs have been thankful for the memories of Christmas shows delivered by America's favorite funnyman.

By Charles Newcomb

MONG his favorite yarns is one about a paratrooper making his first jump: The lieutenant, as the story goes, told the recruit which cord on the harness to pull after he was out of the aircraft. He then told him that after he landed, a station wagon would be waiting to take him back to base. The fledgling dutifully jumped, but when he pulled the ripcord nothing happened. He complained, "And I bet the station wagon won't be there, either."

VERBAL slapstick has been as much the trademark of entertainer Bob



GI BOB The toils of war are briefly forgotten by troops in Long Binh, Vietnam, who attended Hope's Christmas performance in 1967.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Hope as is his ski-jump nose and jutting chin. His was never a style of incorrigible silliness. Instead, a pregnant pause followed closely by a twinkle in his eyes told the audience he had just poked them in the ribs. "At ease, men," he'd bellow as he entered an orthopedic ward to visit wounded soldiers encased in plaster and gauze. "Don't get up."

For more than 50 years Bob Hope brought lonely, tired-of-the-struggle

to even the most remote outposts—his jaunts around the globe often placing him in harm's way. He dodged bullets, artillery shells, bombs during air raids and mosquitoes so big they could carry off your young. After one show an enemy soldier was killed just 200 yards from the stage. During the Korean War, he was inadvertently landed on Wonsan Beach before the First Marine Division had taken it. And in Saigon, his troupe was met by a sapper's bomb blast at

A Season Of Hope

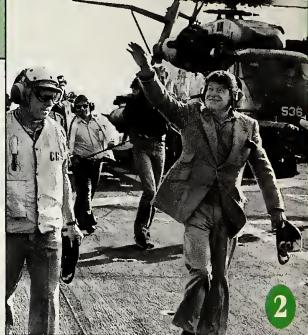
'Bob Hope has become the most recognized profile and talent in the world. And, in the entire history of show business, no individual has traveled so far—so often—to entertain so many.'

their hotel just before they were to check in. "I guess I have critics everywhere," he shrugged.

Hope tossed one-liners from makeshift stages, gun emplacements, hillsides, the bow of a PT boat, the backs of trucks and once from the wing of a seaplane in which he'd just made a crash landing. He packed 600 troops into a Quonset Hut ("Those are upside down foxholes") designed to handle only 300 and entertained countless millions of servicemen and women in the rain and snow. In one tour of the Pacific during World War II, Hope's entourage logged more than 30,000 miles, performing 100 shows in 51 days. With considerably less fanfare than he got from his shows, he visited hundreds of hospital wards and evacuation stations. He raised millions of dollars for the Red Cross, and helped sell war bonds and stamps to people who had already given their sons, daughters, fathers and husbands to the war effort. When asked why he did it, Hope would brush the question aside with a smile: "I guess I'm just hooked on the box lunches," an attitude perfectly expressive of Kipling's line: "Greater the deed, greater the need lightly to laugh it away."



1



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Tip-to-Toe Gentleman

BY ROBERT C. IMLER

IN 1968, Bob Hope's Christmas show crossed my path at Cu Chi, Vietnam, then home of the 25th Infantry Division, "Tropic Lightning," where I was working on the division's weekly newspaper. Hope had his usual gang along, and that Christmas's special additions included the recently crowned Miss World, Australian Penelope Plummer (Hope, introducing Penelope, said something to the effect that, unusually as anyone could see, here was a plumber who brought everything with her) and Ann-Margaret.

(Ann-Margaret would call a brief timeout after one number to catch her breath, apologizing to the troops that she "wasn't a teeny-bopper

anymore." Their roar of acclamation conveyed conviction that Ann-Margaret would be Ann-Margaret until the universe ran down.)

So, on a Yuletide night darker than a Viet Cong tunnel, every possible Tropic Lightning troop rallied on the Bob Hope Christmas Show in the extemporized Tropic Lightning Bowl. It was wonderful. Music, dance and humor, worth the muddy slog even if the show hadn't been such a highly concentrated, perfectly sweetened, wholly comfortable dose of home.

At one point, Hope traded golf club for cane, donned tux and top hat and segued into a vaudeville routine as smoothly as into a favorite sweater. *"From tip to toe, I'm a gentleman,"* he sang, expounding on perfectly proper conduct. And the chorus would pose questions on technical points: *"Are (something-somethings, crumpets, perhaps; I no*

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

Hope's first Christmas tour began in 1948 when the secretary of the Air Force asked the showman to accompany him to Berlin and entertain troops working the Berlin airlift.

- 1 For the boys in Vietnam, 1969.
- 2 Hope arrives in Lebanon for a 1983 performance.
- 3 Tuesday Weld joins him aboard a ship off the coast of Italy in 1963.
- 4 Hope takes center stage aboard the *USS Guam* in 1983.



Leslie Townes "Bob" Hope was born in 1903—the fifth of seven sons of English stonemason William Henry Hope, and an aspiring Welsh concert singer, Avis Townes Hope—in Eltham, England ("My parents were English.... we were too poor to be British"). In 1907, the family immigrated to the United States and settled in Cleveland, Ohio. Bob and his brothers became U.S. citizens in 1920 by virtue of their father's naturalization. In his youth he earned money by selling newspapers and entering numerous amateur talent shows. He did

stints as a delivery boy, soda jerk, shoe salesman, pool hustler and newspaper reporter and boxed on the amateur circuit under the name of Packy East. In 1933, Hope met Dolores Reade—a

Please turn to page 40

But Hope was hooked on more than the box lunches. The entertainer who came to be admired and honored by world leaders for almost six decades was hooked on the laughter ("You had to be pretty lousy to flop in front of these guys.... they yelled, and screamed and whistled at everything") and tears of joy he brought to millions of men and women who had answered their country's call. "They say I do so much for

the GIs," he once told an interviewer, "but they don't know what it does for me."

"For a man who played third billing to Siamese twins and trained seals," Daily Variety said in a tribute it published, "Bob Hope has become the most recognized profile and talent in the world. And, in the entire history of show business, no individual has traveled so far—so often—to entertain so many."

Charles Newcomb, a freelance writer of Freedom, Oklahoma, interviewed retired Gen. William Westmoreland for this magazine (June).

A₁ D₂ V₄ E₁ N₁ T₁ U₁ R₁ E₁ S₁ I₁ N₁ T₁ O₁ Y₄ L₁ A₁ N₁ D₂

From Raggedy Ann to Slinky, some holiday toys have endured for decades. The reason? They're just plain fun.

By Lisa Mulleneaux



PHOTO BY MICHAEL MAUER



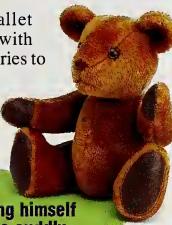
OYS evoke powerful memories. Do you remember how it felt to hold a Slinky between your hands or watch the coiling mass leapfrog down the stairs? Remember trying to "walk the dog" with your new Duncan yo-yo? How about the whistle and clickety-clack of the Lionel engine as it sped boxcars around the living-room floor and the lingering electric smell buzzing from the transformer? If you're a parent or a grandparent, you've probably introduced a few of these classic toys to a new and younger generation.

Though it's hard to believe, many of America's most enduring toys weren't invented by market researchers at toy corporations, but by parents for their families' enjoyment. Johnny Gruelle invented Raggedy Ann for his daughter, Marcella, who lay sick with tuberculosis in 1915. Gruelle entertained his daughter with tales of Ann's adventures as she cuddled the handmade rag doll. After Marcella died, he published those stories. Both the stories and Ann (who acquired a twin, Andy, in the 1930s) are still stealing hearts from Baltimore to Bangkok.

When girls outgrew their Raggedies, they usually graduate to Barbie—at 38, America's oldest teenager. Barbie was never marketed by Mattel as a doll but as a "shapely teenage fashion model," who had pals, a boyfriend and enough wardrobe changes to make its manufacturer a top producer of women's wear. She was created by Mattel co-founder Ruth Handler for her daughter, Barbara, who was bored with paper dolls but fascinated with clothes. How much more interesting, thought Ruth, if Barbara and her friends could "dress up" a doll that actually looked like a teenager with jeans that zipped and blouses that buttoned.

Enter America's dream girl—classy, full-figured and worth \$1.7 billion in worldwide sales today. Not only is she gorgeous, but she has talent to burn. Over the years, Barbie has been a doctor, stewardess, torch singer, ma-

jorette, executive, ballet dancer and astronaut with wardrobes and accessories to match each career. Five years after Barbie's appearance in 1959, Has-



Teddy Roosevelt couldn't bring himself to shoot a bear cub, inspiring the cuddly toy that shares his name.

bro went after the boy's market by introducing GI Joe with the same strategy: to sell bayonets, jeeps, canteens, backpacks, rifles and tents.

Danish Ole Kirk-Christiansen is the father of the plastic building blocks called LEGOs. When the wooden toys he carved for his four sons proved popular with other children, Christiansen switched from carpentry to fulltime toymaking and in 1932 named his company after the Danish words "leg godt," which mean "play well." At first LEGO produced wooden building "bricks" and then the family had an inspiration. "It occurred to us," said Ole's son Godtfred, "that the bricks would become an even better toy... if they could be locked together." Part of LEGO's success lies in the bricks' simplicity: just six of them can be fitted together in 102,981,500 ways.

Simplicity is the key to another popular toy: the Slinky. Richard James was at his desk at Philadelphia's Cramp Shipyard in 1943 when a torsion spring fell off his desk and tumbled end over end across the floor. He brought the spring home, demonstrated its "walking" action, and said to his family of six: "I think I can make a toy out of this."

Betty James, who still manufactures the toy in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, remembers: "I got the dictionary out and tried to find a word to depict the slith-

ering action of the spring. That's how I found 'Slinky.' Asked to explain the toy's appeal after 53 years, James suggests: "It's the simplicity of it. There's nothing to wind up. It doesn't need batteries, and I think the price helps. We charge \$1.99, which is only 99 cents more than the original price."

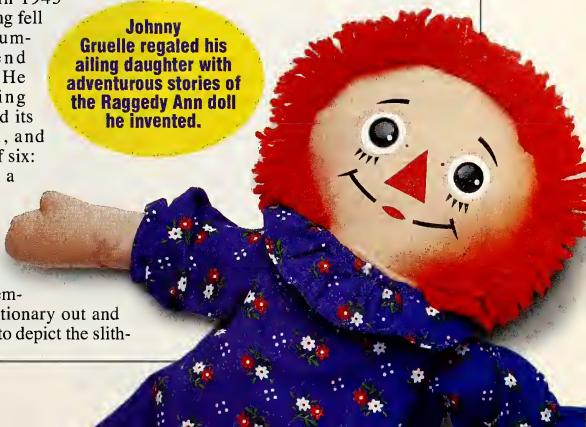
What could be simpler—or more addictive—than Frisbee throwing? But when Wham-O launched its plastic flying saucer in 1957, the public wasn't bowled over. In fact, it was confused, mistaking the product—then called The Pluto Platert—for the Disney character Pluto. So Wham-O went back to their drawing boards and renamed the product for the metal pie plates used by the Frisbee Baking Co. of Bridgeport, Connecticut. It seems that students at nearby Yale University tossed the plates around campus during the 1920s, yelling "Frisbee" to warn pedestrians of the airborne toy.

Wham-O had the same success the following year with its Hula Hoop. Founders Arthur Melin and Richard Kness saw Australian school kids twirling bamboo hoops for exercise and thought it might catch on with their American counterparts. They were right, of course, but decided to make the hoops out of plastic and later filled them with pellets to add a distinctive sound.

How does one predict what will spark the public's imagination? The teddy bear has been a perennial favorite for 90 years, but when President Teddy Roosevelt was asked to lend his name to the stuffed toy, he could never have predicted it would spark a

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Johnny Gruelle regaled his ailing daughter with adventurous stories of the Raggedy Ann doll he invented.



Good Enough For Civilian Work

So you joined the Army to learn a trade that would get you started in civilian life? Sounds like a plan. Now if only things actually worked that way....

By Steve Salerno

FOR Ron Goldin,* the craziness began on an otherwise ordinary afternoon in 1981. Goldin, an Air Force enlistee, had been trained as an air-traffic controller at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi. He now listened with interest to the escalating media war between President Ronald Reagan and Goldin's civilian counterparts, the 11,500 striking members of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization.

Reagan had taken a no-nonsense stand, warning dissident PATCO workers that he fully intended to fire them if they ignored his 48-hour back-to-work ultimatum. Whereupon, in turn, senior officials at Keesler and other air bases across the nation began warning military air-traffic controllers to be ready for what loomed as a nerve-racking "mobilization": pinch-hitting for strikers at the likes of Chicago's O'Hare, New York's Kennedy, Boston's Logan and other teeming private-sector facilities.

* Though the name is fictitious, the incident described is real.

Which is precisely what happened. The PATCO workers called Reagan's bluff—and found out he wasn't bluffing. Within minutes, the call went out to hundreds of Ron Goldins across America, dedicated men and women who were promptly yanked from their military posts and dispatched to nearby civilian airfields to perform the duty they'd been trained to do.

Goldin rose to the challenge. Despite the stressful circumstances, his work, from day one, was exemplary. So exemplary that an admiring Federal Aviation Administration supervisor recruited him to come on-board as a controller after Goldin finished his hitch in the Air Force.

There was a catch, however. Goldin's supervisor told him, "You understand, of course, that you have to attend FAA certification school."

Goldin's jaw dropped. After all, he had just spent several months proving himself in the line of fire. He had come to his emergency civilian duty with the exact qualifications that were required for the job; wasn't that why they'd called him up in the first place? And now he'd be forced to apply veterans' educational benefits toward a course of study that not only duplicated training he received in the Air Force, but "prepared" him to perform at the very level of proficiency that had inspired the job

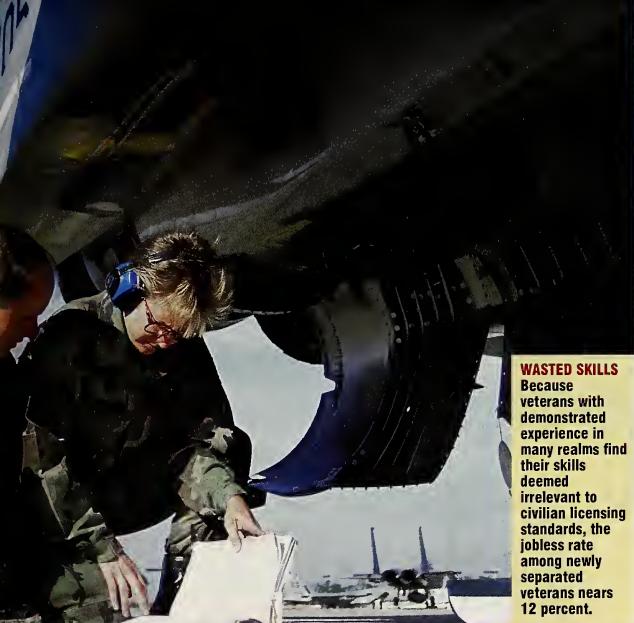
R. JULYANNS/COMMUNICATIONS



offer from his supervisor!

For Ron Goldin—as for countless other skilled veterans across America before and since—it was a rude welcome to the disconnect between military job training and civilian credentialing requirements.

THE anecdotes vary, but the irony is ever the same. The mechanic who once helped keep Air Force One aloft has a hard time finding entry-level maintenance work with USAirways. A medic who treated gunshot wounds during Operation Desert Storm discovers that she is not considered qualified to treat gunshot wounds as an EMT in Washington, D.C. An Air Force retiree with 1,800 hours of training and experi-



'The incompatibility is not between the military training and the civilian jobs. It's between the training and the certification.'

Rep. Bob Filner (D-California)

WASTED SKILLS
Because veterans with demonstrated experience in many realms find their skills deemed irrelevant to civilian licensing standards, the jobless rate among newly separated veterans nears 12 percent.



PHOTO BY AP/WIDEWORLD

ence as an electrician goes home to Idaho and is told he cannot ply his trade without first completing a two-year apprenticeship. The same Army driver who had no trouble captaining an 18-wheeler over the very worst of terrain overseas finds himself barred from like employment on the silken superhighways of America—unless he signs up for trucking school.

All of these cases are symptomatic of a low-profile problem that accounts,

in part, for a sky-high unemployment rate among newly separated American veterans. For while much is made of the vocational opportunities available to former members of the military through the GI Bill, less is said of the work skills already acquired in the armed forces that are deemed irrelevant to civilian licensing standards. Accordingly, veterans with documented expertise in various major disciplines—not only air-traffic control, but health care, elec-

tronics, computers, engineering and investigative work, to name a few—are labeled “unqualified” for the corresponding areas of civilian work.

“The incompatibility is *not* between the military training and the civilian jobs,” stresses Californian Bob Filner, ranking Democrat on the subcommittee on benefits of the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee. “It’s between the military training and the civilian *certification*.” In most cases, the training itself, says Filner, “is perfectly compatible” with the actual job functions. The sticking point can be as small as the difference in nomenclature between the military version of a certain jet engine and its civilian counterpart. Indeed, defenders of military training are quick to remind critics that they are calling into question training where the margins of tolerance, quite literally, are those of life and death itself.

In part, of course, this is a moral issue having to do with America’s implicit covenant with its veterans—many of whom, in today’s all-volunteer environment, are drawn to military service for the vocational training it provides. “We bring recruits in with the lure of giving them a head start in the job market,” laments Danny Devine, press secretary for the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee. “Then when their service is done, we put them out on the street and it’s as if all those promises have been forgotten.”

Beyond that, many observers cite the above scenarios, collectively, as one of the most under-reported flies in the American economic ointment.

Just what are the costs of this in lost productivity? “The trouble with some-

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Steve Salerno is publisher/editor-in-chief of this magazine. Portions of this article appeared in a different form in The Wall Street Journal.

Hitchhiking @ Light Speed

**Netscape's
co-founder
helped bring the
World Wide Web
to our homes.
Today, he charts
a course for the
21st century.**

SO HE'S YOUNG. Some of our founding fathers were in their 20s and 30s when they signed the Declaration of Independence. At 26, Marc Andreessen, a modern age founding father, has helped change the face of the nation—even the world—with the most widely used browser software on the Internet, *Netscape Navigator*. From Silicon

Valley, the founder and senior vice president of technology for Netscape Communications determines the direction his company will take. That, in turn, will determine how you will use your computer.

Andreessen's fame has roots in his undergraduate days at the University of Illinois. In 1993 he worked with a group of students in the National Center for Supercomputing Applications. They created the NCSA Mosaic browser, the first software widely adopted to view a new computer language created by Tim Berners-Lee. In plain speak, Andreessen made the World Wide Web accessible to the rest of us.

A strong business sense distinguishes Andreessen from the average computer nerd. He and partner Jim Clark followed that old adage, "Go West, young man." They established Netscape, then called Mosaic Communications, and set out to conquer the Internet browser software market. Mission accomplished. So successful were they that even mighty Microsoft, whose Internet Explorer software nips at Navigator's heels, has yet to catch up.

They're far from finished; Andreessen's company continues releasing new and updated software for the Internet market. That keeps him busy enough to avoid many journalists, but even a last-minute business trip to Arizona and a cold didn't delete a chat about trends in the technology sector with assistant editor Trent D. McNeely. Because he doesn't keep an office on company grounds, preferring to work from his home, Andreessen adjusts the thermostat (to accommodate a slight fever) in a spartan conference room, settles into his chair, and gets down to business.

WHIZ KID
Andreessen and partner Jim Clark followed the advice to "Go West, young man." They landed in Silicon Valley and conquered the Internet browser software market.



Netscape Headquarters in Silicon Valley

AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE: Silicon Valley is certainly a beautiful part of the country, but why has it



given rise to all these technology companies?

MARC ANDREESSEN: In the '60s and '70s the growth of the semiconductor industry built in this region a critical mass of engineers, managers and venture capitalists, who all have experience and understanding of how technology companies operate. The people responsible for the PC revolution of the '70s and early '80s were the same people who knew how to do that stuff in the previous semiconductor wave. So now the Internet wave you have more skilled people, and starting a new company has become more science than art. It's not a guaranteed success, but many of the steps involved are more understood and systematized so you can do it quickly.

This system doesn't exist anywhere else. In the '80s everyone thought the Japanese would become dominant in technology, but that didn't happen because the knowledge creation in Silicon Valley is incredibly powerful. European countries still discourage startups and entrepreneurial activity. As long as that continues we have a huge edge.

Q. Free markets can create disparity. How can we ensure the Internet Revolution won't drag the haves ahead while leaving the have-nots behind?

A. As the market for Internet products grows, costs get driven down, and the technology becomes accessible to

more people. Also, the Internet is more participative than any previous medium. So, theoretically, to the extent that the technology allows you to bring lots of people into it, and to the extent that they actually want to participate, debating and understanding issues relative to the democratic process, then that's a big step forward. It's not a technology issue; it's an issue of whether people are willing to spend the time and attention required. People to an extent have been conditioned by mass media to not do so.

Q. Will the computer eventually be brought into the living room, becoming as ubiquitous as the TV or stereo?

A. It won't be a personal computer. The PC we all use is having difficulty penetrating beyond 35 percent or so of American homes because cost and complexity are out of control. PCs are hard to use, configure and maintain. That's because PCs have been stand-alone devices. The value of the PC now is less than the value of the software you can run on it, the ability of that PC to plug into the network and allow the user to connect directly with services and content and applications out on the network, whether it's games or educational material or news or whatever. Services are now being created on the network, so you no longer need the complexity of the modern PC.

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PAC Report Doesn't Tell Full Story

APRESIDENTIAL panel, warning that the government's credibility is at stake, urged the Clinton administration to seek a permanent, statutory program of benefits and health care for veterans who have been stricken with mysterious ailments linked to their service in the Persian Gulf War.

The Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses (PAC), in a report released last September, stopped short of calling on President Bill Clinton to replace the Pentagon as lead agency investigating why thousands of Gulf veterans suffer undiagnosed illnesses. Several committee members have been highly critical of the Pentagon's foot-dragging and want the White House to "develop a plan" for pushing on with the investigation, according to the report. In Washington-speak, that translates as a call for removing the Pentagon from the investigation.

PAC said that after two years it couldn't link the illnesses to any single source. While not discounting environmental hazards such as chemical/biological weapons, smoke from oil-well fires and anti-chemical warfare inoculations, the panel said research shows most of the illnesses might have stress as a key ingredient. The American Legion believes researchers and investigators should probe all possible sources of illnesses reported by Gulf veterans, and not make blanket declarations without further study.

The Legion also doesn't entirely agree with PAC's report. "The draft language suggests DoD's ongoing investigation is a

failure and that this failure is causing widespread disappointment in DoD as an institution," says Matthew Puglisi, assistant director of the Legion's Gulf War programs. "Some in the media and in Washington clearly believe the Pentagon's investigation lies at the heart of the federal government's response to Gulf War illnesses (GWI). Gulf War veterans and some of those who represent their claims do not share this belief."

American Legion officials have been critical of the VA for delays in delivering health-care services and compensation to veterans suffering from GWI. "PAC's special report does not give DoD enough credit for its noteworthy outreach efforts," says Puglisi. "The meager outreach efforts of VA pale in comparison. The [VA] Persian Gulf War Veterans' Coordinating Board has not even developed a risk-communication plan, eight months after the final report."

The Legion contends the report does not discuss VA's failure to provide effective medical treatment for ailing veterans or to process disability claims. "These failures are at the heart of the GWI complaints, not what is happening at DoD," Puglisi says.

Of the 697,000 who served in the Persian Gulf during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, only 834 disability claims have been approved for undiagnosed illnesses. Nearly 1,800 claims have been approved in which veterans' conditions were related to their exposure to environmental hazards.

At press time, the presidential advisory committee was completing its final report. Details will be published in an upcoming issue of this magazine.

Back to Basic

The Pentagon should return to keeping male and female recruits separate during basic training, claims National Commander Anthony G. Jordan.

"This isn't a male or female issue," says Jordan. "This is about America's military readiness. We know what works and we know what doesn't work. Decades of experience with basic-training camps gave us the best fighting forces in the world."

Jordan's comments were in response to the growing debate about mixed-gender basic training and allegations of sexual misconduct between instructors and trainees. "The experiments of the last few years have given us a demoralized force, fraught with charges of harassment, unfairness and political correctness," Jordan says, adding the Legion's commitment to a strong role for women in uniform is unchanged.

Delegates to the 79th American

Legion National Convention in Orlando last September adopted Res. 167 (National Security), calling for separate basic training for male and female recruits. The Marine Corps is the only service branch that separates the sexes during boot camp.

No Arlington for McVeigh

If Timothy McVeigh's appointment with the executioner is kept, it's unlikely the murderer's remains will be buried in a national cemetery.

S. 923, which cleared the Senate 98-0, denies veterans' benefits to anyone convicted of a federal capital crime. Current law allows for withholding benefits for crimes such as sedition, treason or sabotage but not all capital offenses. The legislation is intended to prevent veterans convicted of capital crimes, as in McVeigh's case, from being interred in national cemeteries.

McVeigh was sentenced to death after his conviction in the bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building. The blast killed 168 people.

Decisions on Disk

Looking for a decision on a veteran's claim for VA benefits? The Board of Veterans' Appeals has updated the text on all decisions made by the board between 1994 and 1996, and the information is available on CD-ROM.

To use the disk, you must have an IBM-compatible personal computer with a CD drive. For best results, the computer must have an Intel 386/33 chip (or equivalent), BVA says.

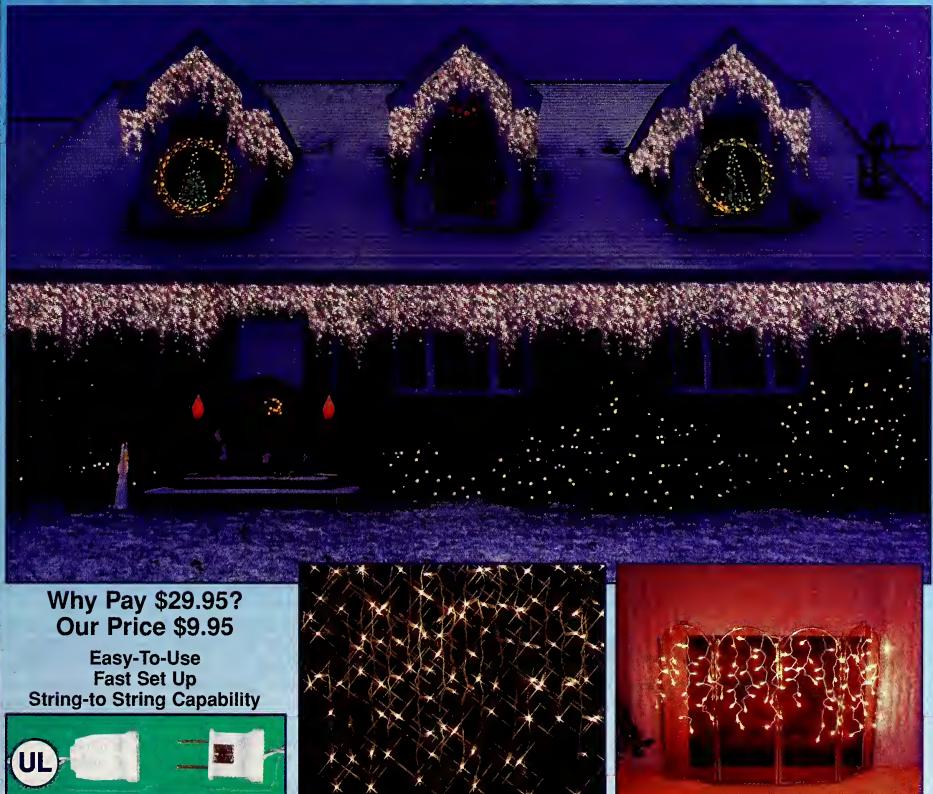
The disk, which also includes an index, can be purchased for \$15 by contacting the Government Printing Office at (202) 512-1800, and requesting the Board of Veterans' Appeals 1994-1996 Decisions. The stock number is 051-000-00-213-00.

Also, veterans and service officers with computers and access to the Internet can have their VA life-insurance questions answered at the Philadelphia VA Insurance Center. The center's e-mail address is vainsurance@vba.gov. □

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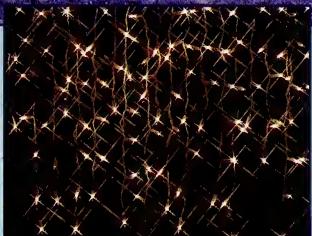
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CFA CONDUCTS SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

THE Citizens Flag Alliance is conducting a youth scholarship contest designed to provide high school students with a forum for their views on why the American flag should be protected from physical desecration. The contest is supported by the 123 national member organizations of the CFA and will provide a total of \$108,000 in scholarship awards.

The contest began Independence Day, hot on the heels of the victory for the flag amendment in the House of Representatives. A constitutional amendment, **H.J. Res. 54**, easily passed in the House, 310-114. Once passed by the Senate and ratified by the state legislatures, the flag amendment will return to the American people the right to protect their flag.

The essay theme is "The American Flag Protection Amendment: A Right of The People...The Right Thing To Do."

"The essay contest is designed to encourage and stimulate high school students to study government, the Constitution and their rights within it," says retired Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady, chairman of the CFA. "Students need to study and learn about our greatest document—the Constitution, and our greatest symbol—the American flag," Brady says.

Scholarships of \$1,000 each will be awarded to the winner from each state and the District of Columbia. Officials will award 10 additional scholarships from the pool of state winners with first place receiving \$15,000;

second place \$10,000; third place \$8,000; fourth place \$6,000; and fifth through tenth place receiving \$3,000 each. Individuals

must be citizens

high-school grades nine through 12. Criteria for judging will include clarity and strength of argumentation, quality and originality of essay and understanding of the rights of citizens to petition their government under the U.S. Constitution.

A complete mailing of contest materials was sent to all high schools across the United States earlier this fall. Additional contest information is available online at www.cfa-inc.org. □



**Citizens
Flag
Alliance, Inc.**

or lawful permanent residents of the United States to be eligible. All participants must be students enrolled, at the time of the contest, in

SAMSUNG SCHOLARS SELECTED

ELEVEN high school seniors have been selected Samsung American Legion National Scholars.

The scholars were selected last September in Washington, D.C., by representatives from Samsung, The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. Each recipient was awarded \$20,000 to pursue an undergraduate degree. The 1997 winners are:

- Michelle K. Ansay, Ozaukee High School, Fredonia, Wisconsin
- Eric B. Bucher, Fairless High School, Navarre, Ohio
- Tammy J. Birmingham, Logan High School, Logan, Utah
- Julian M. Bynum, Mountain Brook High School, Birmingham, Alabama
- Jacob J. Dell, Spearfish High School, Spearfish, South Dakota
- Lori A. Hellkamp, Marshall County High School, Benton, Kentucky
- Sean K. Martin, Reno High School, Reno, Nevada
- Stephanie G. Neal, Blackville-Hilda High School, Hilda, South Carolina

- Amber L. Peterson, Lincoln County High School, Panaca, Nevada
- Derek Shannon, Minot High School, Minot, North Dakota
- Lisa M. White, Coffee County Central High School, Pelham, Tennessee

The scholarships are derived from earnings on a \$5 million Samsung endowment begun in 1995. The South Korean electronics firm joined with The American Legion to offer scholarships to direct descendants of honorably discharged wartime veterans in recognition of the sacrifices of American service personnel during the Korean War. To date, 21 scholarships totaling \$420,000 have been awarded, says Joe Caouette, chairman of the National Americanism Commission, in part on the basis of academic performance, financial need and school and community involvement.

Bo-Soon Song, president and chief executive officer of Samsung North America, says the scholarship program "is the best way to show our appreciation to the United States and to U.S. war veterans." □

ONE OF OUR OWN



JOSEPH Hill Morris, known simply as "Swede" to his friends and fellow Legionnaires, died Sept. 17. A resident of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Swede was 82.

Swede joined Nicholson Post 38 after a stint in the Army during World War II. In 52 years continuous service, Swede served at all levels of the Legion hierarchy. One of his early elected offices was that of Post com-

mander. At the Department level, he was commander (1971-72) Athletic Commission chairman (1951-52), Sergeant-at-arms (1952-53), vice commander (1955-56), Americanism chairman (1957-58), Internal Affairs chairman (1962-63, 1976-77) and Convention chairman (1975-76). Swede served nationally as a member of the Legislative Council (1981-86) and the Magazine Commission as both a member (1964-97) and as vice chairman (1989-91). □



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'WE HAVE BEEN AS BROTHERS'



SPECIAL DELIVERY
David Smith shares
the letter his father
wrote to Clara
Hasty, but never
mailed.

A letter finds
its way to a
mother 50
years after
her son's
death at
Pearl Harbor.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HERALD, ROCK HILL, S.C.

By Sharyn Lucas-Parker

HE AGED piece of tan stationery was just as fragile as she had imagined it would be.

But 99-year-old Clara Hasty wasn't totally prepared for the emotions that swept over her when she finally got a chance to read the typed condolence letter written to her more than 50 years ago after her son was killed during the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

"Today brought back sad memories," Hasty said, carefully placing the long overdue note back in her black leather handbag. "I guess that's why I had dreaded today so."

The day was Saturday, and the occasion was a meeting at The American Legion Frank Roach Post between David Smith, the son of a World War II veteran, and Hasty, the mother of the dead American soldier who had been one of Smith's father's closest friends.

Smith, 43, along with his daughter, Lori, and

her fiance, had taken a weekend to visit from Florence, Alabama, and deliver his father's unmailed letter to Hasty, whose son Ardrey was killed at Pearl Harbor.

Letter found three years ago

Smith and Hasty met Saturday morning for breakfast at Shoney's. Afterward, they swapped pictures and talked about the string of events that had brought them together. Hasty's son and Smith's father became best friends when they served together at Charleston and were sent to Hawaii in 1941. In 1942, after Ardrey Hasty's death, Wilbur Smith wrote the letter to his friend's grieving mother. But for some reason, he never mailed it.

David Smith found the letter in his father's belongings three years ago, after his death.

'He's a wonderful man'

Sonny Collins, commander of Post 34, helped arrange an informal ceremony and meal so Hasty's family could come with her to Saturday's meeting. Collins called David Smith remarkable.

"In a world where taking seems to be the rule, it's uplifting and wonderful to see an individual who displays caring and giving as you have," he said.

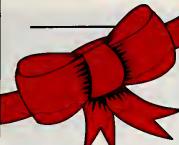
Smith said he felt like one of the family at the gathering, attended by about 30 of Hasty's friends and family. "It's like we've known each other all our lives," he said. "The bond was already there." Hasty, a spry woman with short white hair, believes that bond brought them together. She says she didn't wonder that Smith's father didn't send the letter. "You know you lay things down somewhere and forget where you put it," she said. "I'm good at that."

'We have been as brothers'

In the letter, which was in good condition, Wilbur Smith told Hasty that her son was a brave man who served his country with pride.

"... We have been as brothers all through our
Please turn to page 48

Sharyn Lucas-Parker is a staff writer for The Herald in Rock Hill, South Carolina. This article was reprinted by permission of The Herald.

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ARMY

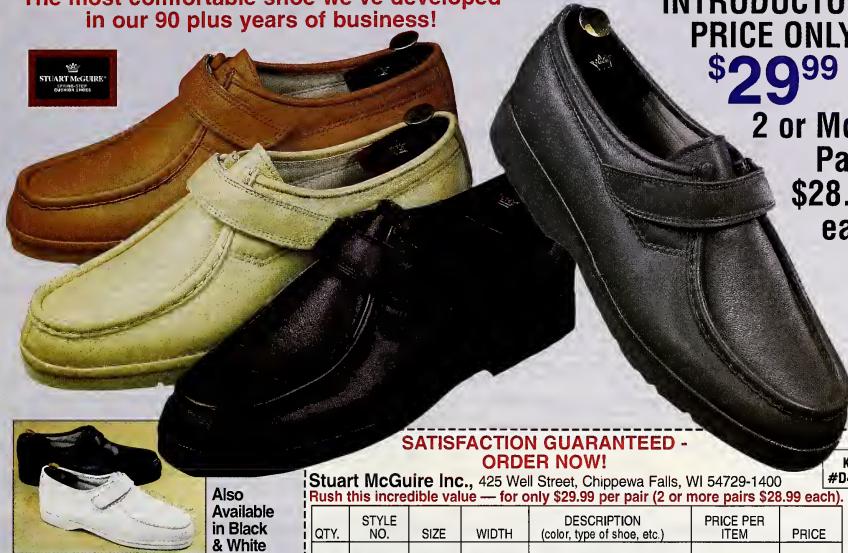
- 1st Air Cav Div, 9th Rgt, 1st Sq, C Trp Scouts (Phuoc Vinh, VN, #14839)
- 1st Arm'd Div, Amphib Bn (Korea, 52-53) #19527
- 1st Cav Div, 15th TC Bn, A Co (An Khe, 65-66) #18904
- 1st Cav Div, 51h Mv Crt, A Co, 3rd Pln (Korea, 50-51) #19508
- 1st Cav Div, 61st FA Bn #23105
- 1st Cav Div, 7th Rgt, 1st Bn, A Co (VN, 67-68) #19452
- 1st Cav Div, 7th Rgt, 2nd Bn, H Co (Korea, 50-51) #19455
- 1st Cav Div, Blth Rgt, 1st Bn, C Co (#4B-51) #11603
- 1st Engr Spec Bde, 479th Amphib Truck Co #10682
- 1st Inf Div, 16th Rgt, 2nd Bn, D Co (67-68) #13688
- 1st Inf Div, 22th Rgt, 1st Bn, B Co (VN, 65-66) #19694
- 1st Inf Div, 70th Engn (Co) (Kg 49-69) #14831
- 1st Med Rgt (Fl Div, WWII) #16582
- 2nd Arm'd Div, 4th Bn AMB (Ger, 51-52) #23292
- 2nd Base Post Office (Italy, 44-47) #15009
- 2nd Chem Mortar Bn (NN Chpt, Korea, 52) #10527
- 2nd Inf Div, 22th Mdt (Korea) #19472
- 2nd Inf Div, 9th Rgt, B Co #20025
- 2nd Inf Div, 9th Rgt (Korean Asgn) #15229
- 2nd Steamer Transport (WV) #20384
- 3rd Arm'd Cav Rgt (7th Meade, Gyroscope, Berlin operation, 54-55) #23705
- 3rd Army, 664th Top Engrs Co (ETO, WWII) #10217
- 3rd FA Rgt, 2nd Bn, A Co (Butzbach, Ger) #13235
- 4th Arm'd Div, 37th Rgt, 2nd Bn, B Co (Furth, Ger, 64-65) #19490
- 5th ASA, 8605th AAA & 5th Det, 2nd Sig Serv Bn (Hawaii, 50-56) #13836
- 5th Eng Rgt, 5th Engr (C) (VN) #20545
- 5th Inf Div, 11th Fgt, A Co #22356
- 5th Inf Div, 2nd Rgt, B Co, "Red Diamond" (Normandy) #19615
- 5th Inf Div, 2nd Rgt, I Co (VN) #15387
- 5th Inf Div, 4th FA Bn #16020
- 5th Inf Div Socety #10084
- 6th (19th) CAD, Harbor Defense (San Francisco) #21753
- 6th Rgt (Hee), 4th Bn, C Co, "Oper Just Cause" (Panama) #19493
- 6th Sig Serv Co Det (Fl Sheridan, 40-43) #22810
- 8th Inf Div Arty (56-59) #15498
- 9th Arm'd Div, 19th Tank Bn #10919
- 9th Arm'd Div, 19th Tank Bn Assn #16013
- 9th Base PO (N Africa, 43-44) #21744
- 9th Inf Div, 39th Fgt, C Co (VN) #10291
- 9th Inf Div, 47th Rgt, 4th Bn (Dong Tam, 67-68) #14320
- 10th Mountain Div (Midwest Chapl) #15690
- 11th A/B Div, 472nd FA Para-Glider Bn #16528
- 11th A/B Div, 51th Para Inf Rgt, D Co #22822
- 11th Arm'd G Cav, 1st Pln, E Trp, 2nd Sq (VN, 68-69) #11628
- 12th Army Grp, Spec Trps (ETO, WWII) #14242
- 12th Tech Co (VN, 50-51) #18930
- 13th Machine Records Unit (Mobile) #22522
- 14th Arm'd Div, SE (Chapt) #16389
- 16th Med Rgt, 161/162nd Bns #20546
- 17th Station Hospital, 11th Portable Surgical (MASH) Hospital #15432
- 20th Arm'd Div, 414th AFA Bn, M-7 tank drivers (43-46) #30125
- 21st Sig Serv Co (VN) #12679
- 22nd AAA (all bpts, 50-52) #23233
- 23rd Replace Depot HQ & Hq Co #22623
- 25th Inf Div, 13th Arty, 3rd (How) Bn, B Btry (HI, 59-61) #17245

- 25th Inf Div, 23rd Rgt, 4th Bn (VN) #22294
- 26th FA Trng Bn, E Btry (Fl Sill FARTC/Pack Army) #30028
- 27th Inf Div (W Coast Chap) #11679
- 27th Inf Rgt Hist Soc Inc "The Wolfhound Pack" (WWII) #11844
- 30th Inf Div Assn (Ter Heel Chap) #90030
- 31st Inf Div, 198th Tank Bn (Korea) #19810
- 31st Ord Co (52-54) #11141
- 31st Sig Const (H) Bn (CBI, 42-45) #30031
- 32nd FA BN, "Big Red 1" Assn (Ger, 53-54) #11602
- 32nd Inf Div, 128th Rgt, 1st Bn, D Co (Red Arrow) #19481
- 32nd Inf Div, Red Arrow Club (FL Chap) #21786
- 32nd Med Hospital (Pao) (VN) #11824
- 34th Inf Div, 12th Rgt #16212
- 35th Inf Div, 12th Rgt #15842
- 35th TC Camp Grp (Ind BN) 121/20, Pacific, 43-45) #14760
- 36th Inf Div, 35th Sig Co #22916
- 37th Inf Div, 148th Rgt, Anti-Tank Co #15553
- 38th Inf Div #22859
- 38th Gen Hospital (N/Saigon, VN) #15544
- 40th Inf Div, 108th Inf Rgt Assn #21859
- 40th Inf Div, 140th AAA AW BN (SP) (Korea, 51-52) #10980
- 40th Inf Div, 981st FA, C Btry (Korea) #21888
- 41st Inf Div, 741st DMD (Co) #17689
- 43rd Inf Div, 143rd Tank Bn #30033
- 43rd Inf Div, 43rd Recon Co (Ger, 51-53) #19654
- 44th/5th AAA Bde (33-35) #20748
- 45th Portable Surg Hospital #23305
- 46th Artil Rgt 1st Bn, A Co (Camp Chatfield, 49) #11603
- 46th Engr Deton Com (VN) (WWII-Present) #10744
- 47th Inf Div, 125th FA, A Btry (Korea) #16010
- 47th Inf Div, 125th FA, B Btry C (Camp Rucker, 51-53) #23208
- 47th Inf Div, 164th Rgt, Service Co #22882
- 47th Inf Div (53-Present) #11568
- 47th Inf Div (Dor) #21599
- 50th Eng Rgt (C) Bn Co #19498
- 50th Engr (C) Bn, D Co & 205th Engn (C) Bn, A Co #20600
- 53rd CAD, A-G Btrgs, 1/2/3 Bn Hqs (42-44) #12593
- 57th Eng (C) Bn, B Co #19511
- 58th AA Trng Bn, C Btry (Camp Callan, CA) #19005
- 60th Engg (C) Bn Assn #16615
- 60th Eng Rgt Co (VN) #15418
- 60th Eng Rgt Det (Co) #12212
- 60th Sig Bn, B Co #15435
- 70th/80th Cavalry Assn (P, VN) #19859
- 70th Inf Div, 27th Rgt, F Co #20123
- 70th Inf Div, 70th Recce Trp #30036
- 70th Inf Div (TNG) #13005
- 71st Inf Div (WV) #14127
- 72nd FA Bde (182nd/177th 119th 772nd) #16023
- 75th Inf Co, D Rangers & Arctic Rangers (VN/AK) #21593
- 75th Inf Co Det (VN) #20652
- 76th Engn Const Bd (Korea, 50-53) #23016
- 78th Eng Div (Germany, 54-59) #19481
- 81st Inf Div, 317th FA, Bn, H Btry (VN) #15730
- B2nd A/B, 555th Para Inf Bn #15495
- B2nd A/B Berlin) #23414
- B2nd Inf Div Assn (Golden Brig Chap) #10695
- B2nd FA Bn, D Btry (Sp) #30137
- B5th Eng Co, Hq Bn, Hq Btry (VN) #12369
- B5th Inf Div, 328th Rgt, 1st Bn #21631
- B6th Inf Div, 403rd Btry, B Co #19712
- B6th Inf Div, 341st Rgt, C Co (VN) #20200
- B8th Inf Div, 351st Rgt, 15th Tank Co (Trust Tankers Assn, 47-54) #20177
- 92nd Station Hospital (Iceland, 42-44) #23736
- 93rd ADA Bn, Ho/Hy, 120 MMGDN (LADD, AFRA, 54-57) #19501
- 97th Inf Div, 387th Rgt, E Co #15632
- 97th Inf Div, 387th Rgt, F Co #20106
- 98th Inf Div (SE) #20031
- 99th Inf Div, Qo Co #23740
- 100th Inf Div, 374th FA Bn #16493
- 100th Inf Div, FL Chapter #15483
- 101st A/B Arv 1st Det (Sep, 65-68) #23741
- 101st A/B Arv 1st Assn #16137
- 102nd AAA Gun Bn, B Btry (Camp Stewart, 50) #22380
- 103rd Inf Div, 384th FA Bn, HO Btry #21551
- 103rd Inf Div, 409th Rgt, 2nd Bn (VN) #14133
- 104th Inf Div, Atlantic Timberwolf Assn (VN) #22778
- 105th FA Rgt Assn (Ind 105th/266th FA Bn, FL Chap) #30038
- 105th Op Det, (Camp Stewart, GA, 50) #19384
- 107th Trans Truck Co #14150
- 107th Evacuation Hospital #28289
- 109th Trans Bn, HQ/HQ Co (France, 50-54) #21905
- 110th Evac Hos (ETO, WWII) #22514
- 121st Trans Truck, 167th Hq Bn (Korea) #14219
- 124th/20th FA Bns Assn #19070
- 124th Inf Rgt (VN) #19459
- 135th Ord Mtn Co #14345
- 146th Inf Inf Bn #21705
- 150th Engr (C) Bn (VN) #16311
- 150th FA Bn (VN) #16021
- 150th Inf Rgt, Arm'd C Rgt #10564
- 155th/167th Inf Rgt (VN) #19460
- 158th RCT "Bushmasters East" #22341
- 158th Inf Rgt (Aigutians/Attu, 43-44) #19793
- 170th General Hospital (VN) #13881
- 187th Rice Paddy Jumpers #19068
- 191st Assault Helicopter Co (67-69) #21924
- 193rd QM Gas Comp Co (VN) #30138
- 195th AAA AW BN (VN) #13016
- 199th LIB Assn "Redcather" (Camb/VN) #15222
- 201st Arm'd FA BN #14216
- 201st MP Co (ETO) #19380
- 205th CA AA, B Btry (VN) #17137
- 208th AAA Grp, H Btry (VN) #17138
- 209th Eng Co #17139
- 209th Engr (C) Bn #17375
- 250th FA Bn (VN) #21659
- 252nd Engr (C) Bn #16039
- 258th FA Bn #15943
- 272nd FA Bn (VN) #15573
- 282nd Asslt Helicopter Co, "Black Cats/Ailey Cat" (VN) #19926
- 293rd Engn Bn, 300, 370/75th Cos (incl assoc units 52-60) #11111
- 296th Eng (C) Bn #20672
- 298th Inf Rgt "Hawaii's Own" Assn (42-45) #30140
- 321st Sig Bn, Ger, 51-53) #12926
- 332nd Eng Rgt Assn #16382
- 335th Eng Rgt, Gen Serv, D Co #23422
- 341st Eng Co (Co) (VN) #20157
- 352nd Search & Rescue #20181
- 362nd Engn Ltr (VN) #22676
- 366th Sig Bn (Long Lines BN) #19544
- 376th Harbor Craft Co (VN) #15628
- 383rd AAA AW BN #20197
- 398th AAA AW BN (SP) (VN) #30135
- 432nd MP Escort Guard Co (43-46) #23177
- 462nd Ord Evac Co (VN) #16225
- 473rd Inf Rgt, K Co/505TH CAAA, Btry F (VN) #16146
- 474 Sig Engn Const Co (SCARWAF) #15876
- 488th Eng, LP Co (VN) #13861
- 501st MP BN (Puerto Rico, VN) #21314
- 501st Par Inf Rgt Assn #16236
- 501st Trans, Harbor Craft (Korea) #12808
- 510th 10th Bn (Sullivan Bks, 51-57) #23226
- 511th Eng (LP) Co #21779
- 511th Eng (LP) Co #19703
- 511th Inf Bn, A Co (VN) #11137
- 522nd Armor Co (Co) (VN) #23737
- 523rd Sig, Chu Lai, VN #12704
- 531st Dtd HMT Co (VN) (Hillhouse forces) #19638
- 536th Eng Light Gun Co (43-46) #19062
- 551st Par Inf BN #20115
- 554th Eng Rgt Pontoon BN (VN) #19374
- 555th Engr (C) Grp, 555 Comp Service Grp #23272
- 555th Ord HM Tank Co #10265
- 556th Eng Rgt (H) Ponton Bn #12741
- 556th Recn Sq (VN) #67-72 #22003
- 572nd AAA Bn #30044
- 579th AAA AW BN #19984
- 579th AAA AW BN, B Btry (VN) #14342
- 599th FA Bn #22527
- 602nd TD Bn Assn #13723
- 603rd Inf Co Det (Co) #21987
- 604th AAA Bn, B Co (VN) #16457
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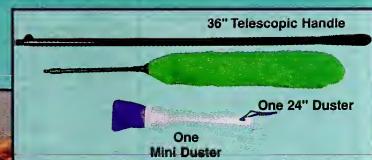
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BOB HOPE

Continued from page 21

young singer. They were married in February of 1934 and have raised four children: Linda, Anthony, Nora and Kelly.

But show biz is and always has been the plasma of Hope's blood: From impersonating Charlie Chaplin in front of a Cleveland fire station in 1909, to celebrating an unprecedented 57 years with NBC in 1995, the singer/dancer/wise-cracking comic was destined to become an icon of the entertainment industry. He started out in the trenches of vaudeville, hooking up with a series of partners in dance and comedy routines. From there he went to Broadway and through difficult circumstance discovered his was not a destiny to be shared with a partner on the playbill. Once solo, he was back on Broadway and in the Ziegfeld Follies and then moved on to the movies with a role in *Red, Hot, and Blue* (1936) starring Ethel Merman and Jimmy Durante. The latter having provided Hope with a stepping stone, and—after adding radio broadcasts with notables like Rudy Vallee and Bing Crosby to his resume—his first major role in the film, *The Big Broadcast of 1938*.

Radio and the movies were the mainstay of Hope's success for many years, and he picked up some formidable co-stars along the way. Among them were Jerry Colonna, Les Brown and His Band of Renown, Wendell Niles, Judy Garland, Frances Langford, Doris Day, George Burns and Gracie Allen, Fred MacMurray and Dorothy Lamour. But it was the magic screen in the living room—television—that really sent Hope's career skyrocketing.

Long-time sponsors of the zinger-slinger, like Pepsodent, stayed with him and hung onto the coattails of his success. Others, like Frigidaire, also profited from his incredible popularity. Hope has starred in more than 50 feature films and has appeared in cameo roles in another 15. And although he's never won an Oscar for his acting, Hope has been honored by the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences five times—nabbing two honorary Oscars, two special awards, and the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award. In 1994, he won an Emmy for his NBC Special, *Bob Hope: The First Ninety Years*.

However, ask a veteran what he or she remembers most about Bob Hope, and you'll probably get a one-word

response, names such as Normandy, Berlin, London, Paris, Algiers, Moscow, Okinawa, Anchorage, Seoul, Saigon, Da Nang, Beirut and Saudi Arabia. There are also countless lesser-known niches where Hope touched homesick GIs with his customized wise-cracks about military life and his rendition of *Thanks for the Memories*—places with names including Kichak Bay, Unimak Island, Licata, Kairouan, Burma, Kwajalein, Majuro and Pavuvu. They'll remember Hope coming into hospital tents to cheer them up ("Did you see our show, or were you sick before?"). And they'll remember him for taking long lists of names of family members and loved ones back to the States—names he promised to contact with a personal message when he got home.

They'll remember him taking verbal pot shots at world leaders ("I just arrived from the States...you know...that's where Churchill lives...he doesn't exactly live there...he just goes back to deliver Mrs. Roosevelt's laundry"), their commanders ("They gave us a plane flown by a four-star general...Pershing...I knew it was an old plane when I saw the pilot sitting behind me wearing goggles and a scarf"), their living conditions ("...but this is a great country, Africa...it's Texas with Arabs"—"You're not defending this place, are you?...you should let them take it...it'll serve them right")—"Nice swamp you've got here...this would be a great place to build a cesspool...if you wanna hide from your draft board, this would be a great place to do it"), and himself, especially himself ("As soon as I arrived in camp they gave me a 10-gun salute...or so they told me on the operating table")—"A rookie came up to me and asked if I was really Bob Hope...I said, yes...they grabbed his rifle just in time"). It wasn't long before the troops started calling him, "GI Bob."

Fellow actor Burgess Meredith, who served as director of the USO in Great Britain, wrote the following tribute to Hope in a letter to Paulette Goddard: "The most wonderful thing about England right now is Bob Hope. The boys in camp stand in the rain, and they crowd into halls so close you can't breathe, just to see him. He is tireless and funny, and full of responsibility, too, although he carries it lightly and gaily. There isn't a hospital ward that he hasn't dropped into and given a show; there isn't a small unit anywhere that isn't either talking about his jokes or anticipating them. What a gift laughter is! Hope proves it."

But more often than not, when you ask a veteran what he or she remembers about Bob Hope, the reply you'll get is, "Christmas, 19xx." Because even after all Hope and his entourages gave to the GIs serving in WWII, it is his Christmas shows year, after year, after year that most veterans have come to associate with the superstar.

The first of the "Bob Hope Christmases" began in 1948 when former Sen. (then Secretary of the Air Force) Stuart Symington asked Bob and Dolores to accompany him and other stars to Berlin, where they would entertain troops working day and night during the Berlin airlift. It was intended to be a one-time affair—but instead, a tradition was born. In the years that followed, Americans stationed at hundreds of bases in the United States and abroad were treated to gala events that drew other big name entertainers into Hope's Christmas shows, some of which were broadcast over radio and television to much of the rest of the world.

Now, not only did Americans serving abroad get a little piece of home brought to them, but friends and families of the GIs got to see and hear their loved ones in the audience, too. Hope continued to bring Christmas to Americans all over the world through the Korean War, the Cold War, Vietnam and Desert Storm—even though his 1972 trip to Vietnam was rumored to be his last. It has been said of Hope, "If he could live his life over again, he wouldn't have time." John Steinbeck, writing for *The New York Herald Tribune*, said about Hope: "...It is impossible to see how he can do so much, can cover so much ground, can work so hard and be so effective. There's a man. There is really a man."

Six generations of American servicemen and women would at different times in their lives catch a glimpse of Hope's unmistakable profile, and silently smile as they said to themselves, "Thanks for the memory."

Hope's efforts and accomplishments through the years have not gone unrecognized: He is cited by the Guinness Book of World Records as being the most honored entertainer in the world—with more than 2,000 awards and citations for humanitarian and professional efforts to his credit. He's received 54 honorary doctorates from colleges and universities. He's been honored and befriended by all the presidents of the United States since Roosevelt and by all the top military commanders of the same period. When President John F. Kennedy presented

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BOB HOPE

Continued from page 40

Hope with the Congressional Gold Medal, he said he had seen his show on Woendi Island when he was a young PT boat captain. "I guess he liked the show," Hope grinned as he was presented with the medal. President Johnson honored Hope with the Medal of Freedom, and Mrs. Carter hosted a White House reception in celebration of Hope's 75th birthday. President Harry S. Truman once played the piano for him.

But that's only part of the recognition Hope has earned and received. Dubbed by the media as America's No. 1 Soldier in Greasepaint, Bob Hope is considered a legend in his own time. In 1976, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth named Hope an Honorary Commander of the Order of the British Empire. This year the U.S. Navy named a newly commissioned transport ship after him, and the Air Force did the same with a new aircraft. Hope was honored by the Congressional Medal of Honor Society with their first Bob Hope Entertainment Award. He also received the first Jonas Salk Humanitarian Award from the March of Dimes, the Medal of Arts from the National Endowment of the Arts Foundation, and numerous other awards from philanthropic and charitable organizations—most recently for his work in child protection.

In Hawaii, with President Bill Clinton for the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, he received special honors from the Department of Defense. But, says Ward Grant, Hope's publicist and close friend of some 35 years, one of Hope's most cherished awards came just this year when Congress voted to make him an honorary veteran of the armed forces of the United States.

To offer a glimpse of the Bob Hope never before seen—one that has yet to be revealed in any of the volumes of tributes published and produced about the golf club-toting comic—Grant related a rare, sans-the-sarcasm comment Hope made to him one day while they were returning to the office from taping an appearance on a TV talk show: "We were listening to the car radio," Grant recalls, "and there was some discussion about an up-and-coming actor who had been giving the media a bad time. So I asked Bob if there was ever a time when he felt arrogant about his own rise to stardom. He told me, 'Yes... I was

No.1 in the box office... I was No.1 on the radio... my personal appearances packed the house every time... then I entertained my first GI audience, and I realized that my contribution to the country was nothing compared to theirs.' He caught me completely off-guard. I was stunned. My eyes welled up. It was the first time in all our years together he had told me what drove him to push himself the way he did. But then, that's Bob Hope... isn't it?"

Hope recalls a show he gave in Tunisia during World War II: A light tank approached the stage, he says, "...like a fat man making for a seat on a crowded subway car..." sending the audience scurrying as it got closer. Right in front of the stage, it stopped. The top flew open and a GI crawled out wearing a tanker's helmet and grease on his face. He dragged out a folding chair, which he set up on top of the tank. He sat down, crossed his legs, smiled, waved at Hope, and said, "Make me laugh."

Hope made him laugh—just as he would make millions of other soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, nurses and others laugh in the years to come.

Thanks for the memories, GI Bob. And Merry Christmas. □

TIP-TO-TOE

Continued from page 20

longer recall the line) *to be eaten with the fingers?*" "No," Hope responded. "*The fingers are to be eaten separately.*"

It was a full plate of entertainment and never far from mind ever after, though the whole reason proved elusive despite a second encounter with Hope in 1976.

Hope was in Indianapolis for the 500-mile race, a co-grand marshal of the festival parade, and I was representing the major metropolitan daily—circulation about 6,000—with which I was then associated. Seeing Bob unattended on the apron in front of the pits generated the notion of hiking over, thanking him briefly but sincerely for an unmatched Christmas gift and departing promptly. All went well until the moment for thanks; cognitive functions froze up and the voice link went down. After an exchange of man-to-man blinks, I resumed the plan and made off, leaving Hope to wonder just what sort of security lapse that represented.

About 21 years on, talking with my hospitalized father during an interregnum in his fatal heart attack, I got a

clue about why I often find myself humming about being a tip-toe gentleman. Father, a World War II medic, recalled that Marlene Dietrich had entertained his division in Austria, on or around V-E Day. But somehow he had never seen Hope's show, though it seemed the most common GI experience after vaccinations.

For many Vietnam vets, I suspect, Bob's presence meant that we measured up; that, as A.E. Housman put it, our fathers did get the sons their fathers got—on the average, anyway. Hope had entertained the sons for generations, and he gave us the same validating consideration. Because of the dismal confusion of politics and the knavish antics of the anti-war crowd, only one person, and he an entertainer, could have given that assurance.

From ground to crown, from tip to toe, until the universe runs down, you're a gentleman, Bob Hope. I wish I had applauded more. □

BLUEPRINT

Continued from page 18

research projects funded either by VA or the Pentagon, VA physicians lack effective guidance in treating the variety of ills under the Gulf War illnesses heading. Outreach efforts are improving, however, as are efforts by VA to reduce the backlog in processing disability claims filed by Gulf veterans. Currently, there are more than 11,000 cases awaiting processing. VA has improved in other areas, Jordan noted, including its move last year to extend the presumptive period for Gulf-related illnesses from two to 10 years after the veteran returned from the Southwest Asian theater.

In other remarks, Jordan unveiled a new study commissioned by The American Legion to help veterans take advantage of their military training. Called "A Study of Civilian Licensure and Certification for Veterans," it documents problems faced by veterans returning to the private sector, and it lays out a clear roadmap for veterans to receive full credit in the civilian sector for skills, training and experiences developed on active duty. (See "Good Enough for Civilian Work" on page 24.)

Jordan also expressed concern about the VA's National Cemetery System's response to the escalating demand for burial space and its decision in February to limit inscriptions on government-provided headstones or markers. □

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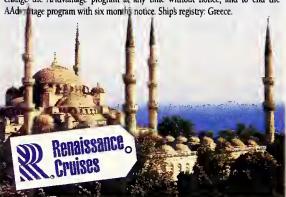
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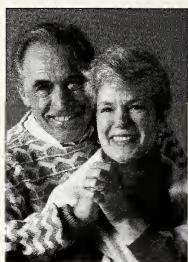
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HITCHHIKING

Continued from page 27

Q. Technological advances have allowed a variety of small computer companies to flourish, but stiff competition from major players has driven many others to collapse. How do we achieve a balance, while at the same time hold costs down and not stifle innovation?

A. The computer industry structures itself with companies in horizontal slices. This structure lets individual companies get dramatic economies of scale on their individual slices. Intel can afford to invest billions of dollars in a new plant and know they're going to sell enough chips to make up for it. At the same time, innovation happens along each of the horizontal slices rapidly. When a company tries to vertically integrate, like Apple tried and Microsoft is now trying to do, it seems to slow way down. It's hard for a single management team to innovate on all slices simultaneously and then sell enough product to get economies of scale.

Friction will develop between the different vertical layers when one wants to advance faster than the others. So if Compaq wants to ship a faster machine than Intel has a chip for then Compaq has a big problem. If Intel wants Compaq to ship machines with a new chip but Compaq doesn't want to, then Intel has a problem. Competitive forces are working well on most slices, with a couple of exceptions, and they seem to drive down costs.

The computer industry also benefits from Moore's Law, which says that as the manufacturing process evolves the price-performance ratio doubles every 18 months. It takes great investment by companies to keep that going, but it does keep going.

Q. The Internet has become a growing medium for commerce, with users buying everything from books to computers on the Web. How far will this go?

A. The Internet is a new medium for communication, and being more efficient it makes the marketplace more perfect. The information exchange becomes more up-to-date and easily available to everyone. There aren't many opportunities for people to get in the middle of something and extract money without adding a corresponding amount of value. In an inefficient mar-

ketplace you can have lots of middlemen extracting money and not necessarily providing a lot of value.

Look at a car dealership. If it engages in traditional high-pressure selling without providing added value, it's going to be extremely hard to sustain. There are huge opportunities for people to go in and add value, though. Just helping people filter through the information is of value. A car company can directly connect with a customer, so dealerships must modify and respond. The car dealerships that will survive are the ones providing value, perhaps providing a consultative role in picking the right car for the customer.

Q. Purchases on the Net bring to mind privacy issues. Is there too much information out there, readily available for abuse?

A. It requires constant vigilance. In the '60s, '70s and early '80s when automation of customer purchases began, concern about individual privacy was a fringe topic. It looks like enough people care about it enough now where companies have to pay attention. In fact, it looks like enough people care about it so that companies that guarantee to provide that level of privacy will have an edge. If that marketplace dynamic works, then the problem takes care of itself. If people don't care about it enough or aren't told enough to realize what's happening—that information is being used without their knowledge—then you certainly have a potentially big problem.

Q. Should companies bundle software with their products to prevent "adult" sites from being accessed, or should parents have to find these products separately?

A. I think that's up to the parents to take the responsibility—it's just like a VCR. Parents who are not willing to supervise their kids in the use of technology like this are giving up their own primary responsibility. As a result of free market activity, there are products and services available to help people provide that supervision. We support the existence of those products, but introducing mandatory censorship into the system is wrong.

Q. Marketers have seeded the Net with advertising. Is this simply another consequence of the free market?

A. Again, there's an efficiency effect. Traditional advertising is a very shotgun-like approach, where you buy a spot on a TV show and hit that audi-

ence and hope you're matching up against a subset of people that makes some sense. On the Net, you're seeing examples of a much more one-to-one basis. You know exactly who you're connecting to and what their demographics are. And the process of advertising is less to get the image across than to draw people into your environment and get them to do something: to fulfill a transaction, to subscribe to your newsletter, whatever. So the concepts of advertising and direct marketing merge.

As this happens people end up getting targeted advertising, according to their preferences. If the system works, as you're on the Net you get advertising that's personalized to what you want so you're not seeing anything you don't care about. That's actually a valuable service because you're getting information on an up-to-the-minute basis about projects you care about.

Q. How important is the technology industry to the stock markets, where tech stocks have been hot, if volatile, even though these companies consistently put growth ahead of profit?

A. Technology, as a percentage of gross domestic product, has been at a long upward trend for the last 30 or 40 years. It's also a growing percentage of the total stock market value. That will likely continue, so it will become a bigger deal. In fact, *Business Week* proposed that the new business cycle was not linked to traditional manufacturing, like automobiles, but instead to technology product cycles. When new products are available and do extremely well their stock goes way up, and it drives other macro effects. Like when Windows 95 or the Intel Pentium came out, it drove these big cycles. In the economy over the next 10 or 15 years we may note that is being subjected to the effect of technology product cycles in a very macro sense.

Technology investors historically flip-flop back and forth. There's certainly more volatility in technology stock than in the rest of the market. That will continue because technology is an area that moves fast.

Q. What responsibilities do tech companies have to keep their products out of the hands of those who would use it for evil?

A. The U.S. government makes it clear what we have to do. National security is a tricky thing: To the extent that national security decisions are

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HITCHHIKING

Continued from page 46

being made by people who know and care about national security, then there is a role for the government and American companies should participate. We happen to disagree with one particular area of government control: cryptography. The cat's already out of the bag on crypto, and any terrorist who wants to use it already has it. But we have taken great pains over the last three years not to break the law. The shipping people look to see if an address is inside the U.S. If not, then we don't ship it. But we're going through the political process trying to change the perspective of leading people.

Q. Where are we going in the next 10, 20, 30 years with physical changes of computer hardware? Will voice recognition replace the keyboard? LCDs replace today's monitors?

A. LCDs probably not. Flat plasma displays are better and cheaper to manufacture. In fact, some 42-inch displays that are just four-inches thick are

available now if you can afford them. Voice recognition will someday find some real uses, although it is a low-bandwidth interface, inherently difficult to receive as much information compared to a screen display.

This is getting out there, but you can buy now—and in fact some of the intelligence agencies use—little earphone/microphones you can drop directly on the eardrum. That can be connected to a little belt which would hook you into the local cell phone network which would then connect you into a larger network which would then provide you with a voice-based interface to the Internet. So you would just have it with you wherever you go. It will be used to augment more traditional forms of communication, but it will be available.

A FEW questions later and a nod from his public relations specialist signal the end of this interview. Another national news reporter is waiting outside to take more of his time. So, with a firm handshake and a winning smile, he is off and running again, proving something he said earlier: "It's an interesting time because there's tremendous opportunity for people, especially young people, to step into

areas of great change and capitalize on that." That's the voice of experience, no matter the age. □

AS BROTHERS

Continued from page 32

Army life," he wrote.

He said he also planned to send pictures. He signed the letter, "Your son's friend."

Ardrey Hasty was 18 when he died. He was killed at Pearl Harbor by a Japanese bomb as he tried to repair a broken water line. He was the first York County casualty of World War II.

"He had such blond curly hair," Hasty recalled. "My son was a beautiful boy. I know you don't call boys beautiful, but he was as fine as I've ever seen."

Although the day began on a somber note, before it was over, Hasty was smiling and asking the man who had driven 12 hours from Alabama to deliver the belated note to please come back and see her again. "He's a wonderful man," Hasty said as she watched David Smith walk away. "He's just wonderful." □

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CIVILIAN WORK

Continued from page 25

thing like this is, it's hard to point to a balance sheet and say, 'Here's how much this is hurting us as a nation,'" says Preston Taylor, recently retired from his Department of Labor post as assistant secretary of the Veterans' Employment and Training Service. "But the problem is real, and widespread."

This much is clear: The quarter-million veterans released from military service each year suffer intolerably high unemployment rates—11.8 percent during the first year after separation, compared to a current national figure of less than 4 percent. And in certain segments of the veteran population, the news is even worse. Among female veterans ages 20 to 24, for example, the jobless figure tops 16 percent, against a non-veteran figure of 7.3 percent for the same gender and age group.

"Sixty-five to 70 percent of veterans are either unemployed or underemployed in the first year after separation from the military," says Nancy Green, vice president for career advancement at Georgia's Clayton State University, which sponsors programs designed to improve veterans' employment prospects.

Further, existing veterans-preference statutes are of little help here, as those guidelines don't kick in unless a candidate is considered technically qualified for the position he or she seeks. Thus the "credentials gap," aside from being inherently unfair, also robs the veteran of any remedies to which he normally might be entitled under federal hiring law.

The employment-rate disparity does abate as the years go by, with veterans eventually achieving a jobless figure even below that of the general population. Taylor calls this "tribute to the dedication and citizenship qualities of America's fighting forces." But such triumph over adversity hardly renders the underlying point moot, in the view of New York Rep. Jack Quinn, chairman of the same subcommittee on which Filner serves. "I'm sure they end up taking lesser jobs than what they could've had otherwise," says Quinn. "And I'm sure it takes them much longer to be promoted and so forth."

Moreover, in that same interim, this credential gap takes a multifaceted toll on the national bottom line.

• The workforce is deprived of quality individuals who can step right in and

do the job. Instead, employers hire apprentice-level workers who possess the desired on-paper credentials, but offer little hands-on experience. "The military is a selective employer and represents an unparalleled educational and training institution," concluded a recent analysis of the problem by DynCorp Information and Engineering Technology, an industrial-research firm. "The majority of jobs to which today's soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen are assigned have civilian counterparts."

• Companies that hire young veterans at the trainee level must then commit their new hires to costly certification programs in order to "bring them up to" performance levels they already achieved, if not surpassed, in the military. The DynCorp study found these so-called "extra step" scenarios especially prevalent in the realms of aircraft maintenance and health care.

• Taxpayers subsidize most of this unnecessary instruction either through GI Bill benefits or additional federal civilian schooling such as that run under the auspices of the Federal Aviation Administration. "These people have already been trained once at government expense," says Green. "Now they have to undergo a second round of completely redundant training."

• And of course, there is the potential long-term impact on military recruitment and retention. Asks Filner, "When word filters back that people with good training can't get good jobs, you don't think that eventually won't have an impact on the military's ability to attract quality recruits?"

No one disputes the sensible imperatives behind the credentialing and licensing standards: America sleeps better knowing that the men and women who pilot the aircraft overhead meet uniform—and uniformly high—criteria.

The flaw in this common-sense reasoning? As Quinn puts it, "However well-meaning the motivations, what started out as a rational system has gone on to become a bureaucratic monster."

ONE key impediment to a solution has been the jurisdictional slipperiness of the issue. A workable fix would seem to require *so* much interdisciplinary cooperation—between different branches of government, federal and state governments, the individual states, the various levels of government and the private sector, even labor and management—as to be unrealistic.

This might explain why efforts to narrow the gulf between skills and standards have been half-hearted at best.

"Apparently," Filner observes, "people who looked at this issue in the past got overwhelmed by how big the problem was. There just seemed to be so many enemies."

Further, there are the inevitable turf wars. "Each bureaucracy has its own way of coming at the subject," explains Filner, "and often, neither one wants to admit that the other one knows what it's doing. I think almost any organization, whether it's a union or a state bureaucracy or whatever, is likely to say, 'We want you to do our training. We're not sure you have all the tools to do the job unless you have our training.'"

It follows that the first step in fixing this would be breaking the omnibus undertaking into manageable chunks. "What we've asked people to do," says House staffer Devine, "is get together and come up with a list of military specialties and the civilian equivalents, and see if we can go a step at a time."

Adds Taylor, "If you [show results] in one big case and prove that money can be saved, the problem will take care of itself."

Second, a solution clearly will require more commitment to the cause on all sides. Says Quinn, "The government could do a better job preparing our men and women for what's out there when they separate from the service. High schools are matching up their graduates with the needs of the job market, right? So why can't the service?" Historically, sums spent by the Pentagon to train the average recruit—in the area of \$75,000 each—dwarf amounts spent to help that same individual later when he attempts to transition to private life.

DynCorp, too, urges military commands to "provide servicemembers with information regarding licensure and certification requirements when they are still in training." That way, at least, individuals who fall short of civilian expectations have time to address such shortcomings—or make contingency plans—before they trade their military regalia for mufit.

Devine, meanwhile, notes an important incidental benefit to this approach: "If we get our people as close to a two-year degree after four years [in the military]....it's a realistic way of stretching the GI Bill money, because if you have \$15,000 available it goes a lot farther if you only need two years than if you need four."

On the private-sector side, Quinn suggests an expanded form of the mentoring approach now gaining favor in many industries: "A company would bring folks along slowly, almost like an

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Veterans who remember attending dance shows at the enlisted men's club (Mahalia Hall) at Fort DeRussy in Honolulu. Contact: Jim Turner, SCS Archaeology, 711 Kapilani Blvd., Suite 777, Honolulu, HI 96813.

Any one who was connected with the USS Mustang by Coronado Island during WWII. Contact: Bill Bossett, 701 California St., San Francisco, CA 94118.

Surface and aerial pictures of the Baker and Howland Islands in the central Pacific from February 1942 through March 1944. Contact: Lewis Dewart, 29 Fairway Dr., Selinsgrove, PA 17870.

Former members of Btry D 461 AAA Brn, Army, WWII. Contact: D. Jackson, 35 Waterhouse Close, Wardle, Rochdale, Lancashire, OL9 9LL, England.

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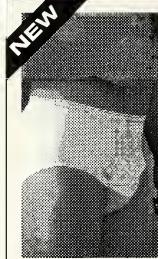
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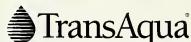


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TOYLAND

Continued from page 23

national craze. It was inspired by a political cartoon by Clifford Berryman that showed the president refusing to shoot a bear cub during a hunting trip in Mississippi. Morris Michmont liked the bear so much he and his wife fashioned its likeness with brown plush, button eyes, and moveable arms and legs. They placed the bear and a sign that read "Teddy's bear" in the window of their Brooklyn toy store, and the rest is history.

Erector sets and Lincoln Logs have allowed children to build their fantasy cities for almost a century. Erector was created by A.C. Gilbert, who got the idea in 1911 while traveling by electric rail from New York to New Haven. He watched steel girders being raised to carry power lines for the trains and decided to recreate them in miniature for children. But first he had to perfect their design. He discovered that a lip placed along the girder's edge prevented slippage.

Lincoln Logs were the inspiration of John Lloyd Wright, the son of architect Frank Lloyd Wright, during a 1916 trip to Tokyo. Wright became intrigued by the close-fitting, overlapping wood-joint techniques used to construct the earthquake-proof Imperial Hotel. With a little imagination, he thought, kids could use the same techniques to build realistic forts, stockades and log cabins like the one in which President Lincoln was born.

Persistence also paid off for the "developer" of Monopoly. In 1933, Charles Darrow—like many Americans—was out of work and couldn't afford the family's annual vacation to Atlantic City. Instead, for his friends' diversion, he sketched out a game based on buying and selling real estate in that New Jersey resort. For a few hours at night Darrow and his buddies could feel like Mr. Pennybags, the mustachioed gent who was to become the board game's symbol.

Encouraged by sales of the game in his hometown of Germantown, Pennsylvania, Darrow offered it to Parker Brothers, which rejected it, listing "52 fundamental errors."

If Darrow had had a steady job, Monopoly might have died right there. But Darrow was dogged and convinced Wannamaker's department store to sell his game. When they

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Eileen Hennessy
The American Legion Magazine
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(312) 644-3888
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All classified advertising is payable in advance by check or money order. Please make remittance payable to "The American Legion Magazine." RATES: \$20 per word. Count street addresses and box numbers as two words; all city, state and zip codes as three words. CIRCULATION: 2,800,000 per month. DEADLINE: Advertising copy must be received 60 days before cover date of issue desired. All advertisements are accepted at the discretion of the publisher.

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INTERNET. Please visit "WWW.GMBOOKS.COM" for things you need to know.

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HEPA Home Air Cleaning Systems. Removes unwanted contaminants from the air you breathe like pollen, dust, dust mites and cigarette smoke. Commercial & Industrial systems also available. Call (800) 426-2611 for a free brochure.

PERSONALS

NICE SINGLES meet others. Amazing results. FREE magazine. Send age, interests. Singles, Box 310-ALM, Allardt, TN 38504.

ASIAN WOMEN! Overseas, marriage-minded. Sunshine International Correspondence, Box 5500-HK, Kailua-Kona, HI 96745-5500 (808) 325-7707, <http://sunshine-girls.com>.

SHOW MAMA MY WEBSITE - CHRISTINE, <http://www.naturaltops.com>.

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RENT CONDO. Orlando, Florida. (407) 363-2829

WANTED

OLDER GUITARS, (800) 451-9728.

WW2 VETS, cash for your German, Japanese WW2 Sniper Scopes, cases, complete rifles. Bob, (715) 483-9359

WINE & BEER MAKING

WINEMAKERS-BEERMAKERS. Free catalog. Kraus, Box 7850-LM, Independence, MO 64054, (816) 254-0242

heard how well it was selling, Parker Brothers reversed itself. Today the company prints more play currency than the U.S. Treasury department prints and pumps into circulation.

Monopoly is not without its controversies. Today it is generally accepted that Darrow based Monopoly on The Landlord's Game, patented by Elizabeth Magie in 1904. As a student of economist Henry George, Magie's purpose was educational: She hoped to instill in players the evils, rather than the joys, of property ownership. She seems to have misjudged her audience. Explaining the game's—and its players'—immense staying power, comedian Shelley Berman says: "It's that... thrill you get when you know

you've wiped out a friend."

Another classic American board game to emerge from the Depression uses words as legal tender. Scrabble was the creation of unemployed architect Alfred M. Butts, a lifelong devotee of anagrams and crossword puzzles. Commercial production began in 1948 in a little red schoolhouse in Newton, Connecticut, and took off like a rocket. Each year over 100 sanctioned tournaments take place in North America, and the best players average 405 points a game. To date the most points in an official match, 770, were scored by Mark Lansberg. His words included "intraday" and "uncinate," which must have sent judges scurrying to their dictionaries. □

PARTING SHOTS



"Sneakin' around, spyan' on kids—I could never work in surveillance."

If a book
about failure
doesn't sell,
does that
mean it's a
success?

Here Today...

The reason lightning never strikes twice in the same place is that the same place isn't there the second time.

Bumper Banter

- A day without sunshine is like, well, night.
- Save the whales—collect the whole set.
- Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
- On the other hand, you have different fingers.
- Honk if you love peace and quiet.
- Seen it all, done it all, can't remember most of it.
- How much deeper would the ocean be without sponges?

Life Like

Despite the cost of living, have you noticed how it remains so popular?

Late Bloomer

She's always late.... Her ancestors arrived on the Juneflower.

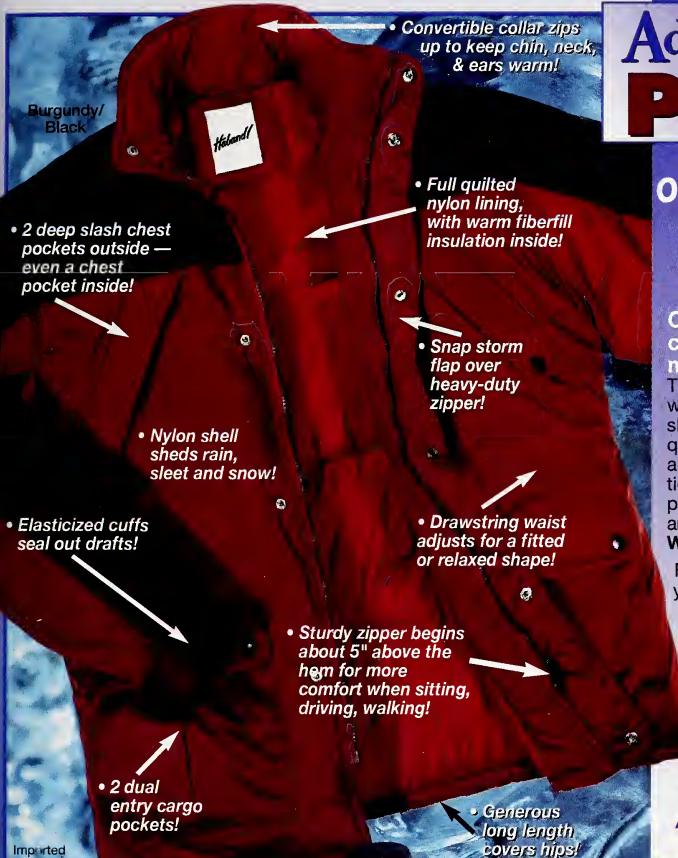
Such a Deal

The following were actual classified advertisements.

- Lost: small apricot poodle. Reward. Neutered like one of the family.
- Dinner special: Turkey \$2.35; Chicken or Beef \$2.25; Children \$2.
- For sale: an antique desk suitable for a lady with thick legs and large drawers.
- Now is your chance to get your ears pierced and get an extra pair to take home, too.
- We do not tear your clothing with machinery. We do it carefully by hand.
- Tired of cleaning yourself? Let me do it!
- Mt. Kilimanjaro, the breathtaking backdrop for the Serena Lodge. Swim in the lovely pool while you drink it all in.
- The hotel has bowling alleys, tennis courts, comfortable beds and other athletic facilities.
- For rent: 6-room hated apartment.
- Used cars: Why go elsewhere to be cheated? Come here first!
- Christmas sale: Handmade gifts for the hard-to-find person.
- We will oil your sewing machine and adjust tension in your home for \$10.
- And now, the Superstore—unequalled in size, unmatched in variety, unrivaled inconvenience.
- 3-year-old teacher needed for preschool. Experience preferred.



"Is the North Pole out of town?"



• Convertible collar zips up to keep chin, neck, & ears warm!

• Full quilted nylon lining, with warm fiberfill insulation inside!

• 2 deep slash chest pockets outside — even a chest pocket inside!

• Nylon shell sheds rain, sleet and snow!

• Elasticized cuffs seal out drafts!

• Snap storm flap over heavy-duty zipper!

• Drawstring waist adjusts for a fitted or relaxed shape!

• Sturdy zipper begins about 5' above the hem for more comfort when sitting, driving, walking!

• 2 dual entry cargo pockets!

• Generous long length covers hips!

Imported



Teal/Navy

Grey/Charcoal

Adirondack Trail PARKA

New Customer Offer!

Only

29⁹⁵

\$5 OFF
Regular Price

One heckuva handsome coat — and there's a lot more to it than meets the eye!

Three Layers Warm to stand up to winter's worst: Tough nylon outer shell, hefty polyester fiberfill, and quilted nylon lining throughout. Plus an insulated collar that can zip up tight to lock out drafts, plenty of pockets (seven-count 'em—SEVEN!) and of course, 100% Machine WASH & WEAR Easy Care!

Flattering two-tone styling accents your broad shoulders. Three handsome colors to choose.

Not \$150 but just \$29.95 when you buy direct from Haband.

Don't be left out in the cold—Order yours today!

Haband!!

100 Fairview Avenue
Prospect Park, NJ 07530

Adirondack Trail PARKA

29^{95*}
each

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Send me _____ coats. I enclose \$_____ purchase price, plus \$3.95 for postage & insurance.

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 Visa MasterCard
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Card # _____
 Mr. PLEASE PRINT:
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 Ms. _____

Mail Address _____ Apt. # _____

City & State _____ Zip _____
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Sizes: S(34-36) M(38-40)
L(42-44) XL(46-48)

*Big men's add \$5 more each for:
2XL(50-52) 3XL(54-56) 4XL(58-60)

7T9-32W	WHAT SIZE?	HOW MANY?
A	Teal/Navy	_____
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C	Grey/Charcoal	_____

For fastest possible service call
1-800-742-2263
Order 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

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WARM FLANNEL LINED

Gabardine
Winter Slacks

\$19⁹⁵

and FREE POSTAGE!

Good Looking And Warm!

Shovel your driveway on a bitter cold morning, then drive straight to the office! Haband's impeccably tailored dress slacks do it all thanks to these outstanding features:

- The same permanent press gabardine polyester as our regular Dress Slacks!
- 100% preshrunk cotton flannel lining throughout. Stitched in to stay put!
- Two deep no-hole on-seam pockets, plus two button-thru security back pockets!
- No Roll inner waistband! • Shirt grippers!
- French Fly w/ button tab! • 2" center seam outlet!
- Razor sharp crease and hemmed bottoms
- Extra comfortable gentleman's full cut!
- 100% machine wash and dry easy care!

Toasty warm and comfortable like your favorite pajamas! Order a couple today!

Flannel Lined Slacks

19^{95*}

2 for 38.25
3 for 56.50
4 for 74.50

Haband 100 Fairview Avenue, Prospect Park, NJ 07530

Send _____ pairs of slacks for \$

purchase price, plus postage of \$4.75.

GA residents add sales tax.

**FREE POSTAGE
on this order!**

WAISTS:

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Add \$3.00 per pair for: 46 48 50 52 54

INSEAMS: S127-28 M129-30 L131-32 XL133-34

Check
enclosed or
789-08Y

What
Waist? _____ What
Inseam? _____ How
Many? _____

SEND NO MONEY

if you use:
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Check here and add \$6.95 for
(730) Reversible Bonded Leather Belt.

Even sizes: 30-54. WHAT SIZE? HOW MANY?

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 Mrs.
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